

Nurses' leader delighted after call for extra £1.1 bn

Moore pledge to fund NHS pay increase

By a Staff Reporter

The Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr John Moore, last night gave a qualified commitment to the fully funding of this year's nurses' pay award.

The pledge came from Mr Moore as he was faced by a delegation from the Royal College of Nursing, led by its general secretary, Mr Trevor Clay, calling for an extra £1.1 billion to be spent on the National Health Service.

After the 1½-hour meeting, Mr Clay said that Mr Moore had gone considerably further than previous statements by the Prime Minister in his indications that the pay review body recommendations due to be submitted to Mrs Thatcher in April, would be met.

Smiling broadly, Mr Clay said: "This is a Cabinet decision. The Secretary of State said the award would be fully funded unless there were clear and compelling reasons not to do so."

He said that he took this to mean that if the review body recommended a pay award of 50 per cent for nurses, then the Government would only pay 45 per cent. However, he admitted that the form of wording that Mr Moore had used had been used in the past.

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when the Government had interfered with the award.

The assurance may nevertheless defuse some of the nurses' anger from the next three days of action in London, where up to 2,000 nurses are set to take on strike over pay and conditions in the NHS.

Mr Clay, who appeared greatly heartened after the meeting, said that he had also managed to secure progress in other areas. First, Mr Moore had assured him that the Government would make a statement at Easter on new proposals to reform nursing education, which are designed to attract more recruits by taking some of the pressure off student nurses and allowing them more study time. Second, that the Secretary of State had accepted the College's proposal that professional organizations should be asked to submit evidence to the Cabinet's review on NHS funding. "We shall be submitting a detailed memo as well as giving verbal evidence to the review," said Mr Clay.

Mr Moore apparently refused to be drawn on whether extra funds other than nurses' pay should be injected into the NHS, but Mr Clay said he was hopeful that nurses, together with other professional

organizations, had won the argument that an extra £1.1 billion was needed to protect services in the NHS. "I think we shall get our £1.1 billion. There is now a growing consensus that this is what the NHS needs."

"Mr Moore certainly became aware of the nurses' plight and we detected that we were having an impact and our argument about nursing shortages was getting across."

However, Mr Clay also made it clear that it was Mrs Thatcher rather than Mr Moore who is in the driving seat in the review on NHS funding. He said that the College had not ruled out a meeting with Mrs Thatcher, but he did not think that this was something he would call for immediately.

It became apparent last night, however, that the Government is succeeding in driving a wedge between the Royal College of Nursing and the other health service unions. Mr Clay reiterated that the one area where the RCN was split with Cope and Naps was over whether nurses should strike. He said that Mr Moore had agreed with him that any strike action by nurses would inevitably harm patient care.

"Even if one nurse came off one ward in the short-staffed London hospitals there would be an effect." Last week the College said it was preparing to stand out ballot papers on whether the College's no-strike agreement should be revoked.

But last night, Mr Clay seemed to backtrack significantly, and said that not only had no preparations been made, but that there would be no ballot at least until much later in the year. In a surprising outburst at the other nursing unions, he also condemned their claim yesterday for a £2.5 billion increase in funding as totally unrealistic.

He said he would certainly refuse to sign the charter for health which is being submitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson.

The nurses' pay bill at the moment stands at more than £4.3 billion a year and nursing unions have already called for a 20 per cent increase, which would add a further £850 million to that pay bill.

Even a more realistic settlement of 10 per cent would cost £430 million and the Government has already pledged itself to implementing a new clinical grading structure - designed to reward nurses with special skills - which is also expected to cost a considerable amount of money.



A smiling general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, Mr Trevor Clay, emerging from his meeting with Mr John Moore yesterday after receiving a promise on nurses' pay.

Nurses would support health service shake-up

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Nurses believe overwhelmingly that the health service needs restructuring, but almost nine out of ten are dissatisfied with the Government's handling of the service.

Responding to a MORI poll conducted for *The Times*, 88 per cent of nurses said they were very or fairly dissatisfied with the Government's handling of the service, compared with just 6 per cent who were very or fairly satisfied.

As for Mrs Margaret Thatcher's pledge at the last two elections that the health service was safe in Conservative hands, 78 per cent disagreed with that statement and only 11 per cent agreed.

That is despite the fact that 32 per cent of nurses would vote Conservative if there were a general election tomorrow.

However, the clear opportunity for the Government is shown in the nurses' response when asked if the service needed restructuring. An emphatic 85 per cent agreed, with

only 8 per cent seeing no need for change.

So far, while the Government has talked about the options for restructuring of the service, Labour's contribution has been confined to calls for more money for the service in its existing form.

For all the criticism of government efforts, ministers

Times/MORI poll

have therefore at least succeeded in winning over nurses to the need for change, though nurses clearly support the Labour line on health service spending.

Ministers will take some comfort too from the nurses' attitudes to the day of action planned for tomorrow.

While nurses were in favour of the day of action by 54 per cent to 29 per cent they believe that there should have been more consultation by union leaders. Three quarters said there should have been a national ballot before the calling of the day of action.

A third of the nurses polled by MORI last weekend believed that the day of action had been called by trades union activists without the support of ordinary nurses, but half disagreed with that idea.

Nurses are deeply divided on the no-strike policy employed by the Royal College of Nursing, with 44 per cent in favour and 44 per cent against.

Among RCN members, who constituted three fifths of those polled, support for the no-strike policy was 57 per cent to 34 per cent.

For Mr Trevor Clay, the general secretary of the union, opposition from one third of his members must raise the worry of a drift away to more militant unions.

Half of the nurses polled believed that there is too much inter-union rivalry among the nurses' unions, while 34 per cent disagreed.

A rocky road still lies ahead for the Government, however. Continued on page 24, col 2

Man confesses to murdering newspaper boy

By Craig Seton

A man confessed to a hushed court yesterday that he had murdered paperboy Stuart Gough, who was abducted two weeks ago. Victor Miller, aged 32, a computer operator, said he wanted to avoid further distress to the boy's family.

In a statement read out by his solicitor to the crowded magistrates' court at Hereford, Miller said he did not intend to defend the charge of murdering Stuart, aged 14.

The statement said: "I have been charged with the murder of Stuart Gough."

"I do not intend to defend the charge. I fully accept what I have done."

"I have co-operated fully with the police. I can never make up for taking Stuart from his family."

"I would ask and, indeed, trust that justice will be done and that I will receive the maximum sentence available to the court."

"I am making this public statement through my solicitor to save speculation and further distress to Stuart's family and all concerned."

Miller, of Lennox Gardens, Pennfields, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, was appearing in court on the day after Stuart's body was found hidden beneath leaves in a remote lane called Cuckoo Pen near Ledbury, Hereford and Worcester.

The spot was 30 miles from Stuart's home in Hagley, Hereford and Worcester, where he disappeared on January 17 while delivering newspapers on his regular Sunday round.

Miller's dramatic confession came after Mr Anthony Davies, his solicitor, successfully applied for reporting restrictions to be lifted.

Mr Davies said that he had been instructed by Miller to read the statement to the court.

Miller faced four charges. He was accused of abducting and murdering Stuart and abducting and threatening to kill Richard Holden, aged 18, near Wellington, Hereford, on January 15.

During his five-minute court appearance, Miller,

dressed in red trousers and blue shirt, remained silent.

Mr John Haworth, prosecuting, told the court: "In my submission the evidence in this case is overwhelming and includes a complete and voluntary admission of all the charges."

He said Miller's release would pose a serious threat to public safety and asked for a remand in police custody for three days.

He said there were inquiries to be made into "two other similar matters" and Miller's detention at Hereford police station would facilitate that investigation.

West Mercia police said later that the further inquiries did not involve allegations of murder and no further details would be released.

Miller was remanded in custody until Thursday.

Later, the dead paperboy's parents, Mr Geoffrey Gough, aged 57, a scoutmaster and Mrs Jean Gough, aged 44, a nurse, said they were relieved by Miller's statement.

The Rev Alan Brooksbank, the vicar of Hagley, said that when he told the parents what had happened in court "they felt they will be spared a lot of detail."

He said: "They will be spared a tremendous ordeal. They think it is right and proper that Miller will receive the maximum sentence, not from the point of retribution, but to protect others."



Victor Miller: Requested the maximum sentence be given.

Ferry strike is halted

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The National Union of Seamen was yesterday ordered to call off a planned strike on passenger and freight vessels.

Mr Justice Kennedy, sitting in private at the High Court, granted an injunction to the two biggest companies affected, Sealink and P & O European Ferries.

The strike was due to have begun at midnight at 12 ports, halting services to France, Belgium, Holland, Ireland and the Scottish Islands.

The temporary injunction named the union and Mr Sam McCuskie, its general secretary, as well as several union officials.

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Base rates rise to combat inflation

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Bank base rates are to rise by half a percentage point to 9 per cent after an interest rate signal in the money markets from the Bank of England. No rise in mortgage rates is likely.

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank, gave a warning on Friday that interest rates may have to be raised to contain inflationary pressures. But the move still caught much of the City by surprise.

Gilt-edged prices finished down 3/8 point and share prices reversed their earlier rises, leaving the FT-SE index down 13.9 points to 1,776.9 at the

close. The pound rose on the news by about a penny against the mark and 0.9 cents against the dollar but lost ground by the close, finishing 55 points up at DM2.9733 and down 1.2 cents at \$1.7580.

The move was prompted by concern that the economy was expanding too fast and threatening higher inflation.

Mr Kevin Boakes of Greenwell Montagu said: "I am very surprised by the increase, especially the timing. There is a danger that we shall get upward pressure on the pound against the mark."

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King's Cross fire inquiry Tragedy of hidden hydrant

By Rodney Cowton and Tony Dawe

A fire hydrant which could have been used to prevent the King's Cross underground station disaster last November was locked behind a temporary boarding, the public inquiry into the tragedy, which claimed 31 lives, was told yesterday.

It was just one of a series of blunders outlined on the opening day of the investigation by Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel for the inquiry.

He said the hydrant was only yards from the top of the Piccadilly line escalator which caught fire and later exploded into a wall of flame.

Fire officers, led by Mr Colin Townsley, who was killed in the disaster, arrived at King's Cross about four minutes before that explosion but could not use the station's fire-fighting equipment and had to send for powerful jets from their fire engines.

"The fact is that the hydrant

was invisible and inaccessible", Mr Henderson said.

Hoarding had blocked access to it for nearly five months.

The inquiry, at Westminster Central Hall in London, heard that when the fire started, it was "small and innocuous".

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British Transport Police and London Underground staff concentrated on trying to keep passengers away from the Piccadilly line escalators.

Passengers were directed instead up the nearby Victoria line escalators. Mr Henderson said the significance of this "became tragically apparent", for it led people to their deaths in the ticket hall, which caught the full force of the explosion.

Passengers who survived the explosion, some of them

with severe burns, stumbled back down the Victoria line escalator to try to escape from the station aboard trains.

But they endured the frustration of seeing trains pass straight through the station without stopping, on police orders.

Mr Henderson said it would take cogent evidence from independent experts to persuade him that these "comprehensive and rational decisions" by the police deserved criticism.

The safest way out of the underground station at the time was along a passageway to British Rail's Midland and City line. But the inquiry heard that exit gates had been locked at the end of the rush hour and police and passengers were forced to try to tear them apart with their hands until a cleaner arrived with a key.

Weinberger astonished by knighthood honour

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

The former US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, said he was "astonished and delighted" yesterday after the announcement that the Queen is to present him with an honorary knighthood for his "services to British interests".

The rare honour for Mr Weinberger, who retired in November after seven years in his post, was in recognition of his "outstanding and invaluable contribution to the defence co-operation of Britain and the US", the Foreign Office said.

The award was the personal recommendation of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary. Mr Weinberger, aged 70, will visit Britain on February 22 to receive from the Queen the Honorary Knight Grand Cross in the Civil Division

of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (GBE). This is the most senior of the three degrees in the Order.

The Foreign Office statement described Mr Weinberger as a staunch friend to Britain "who will be remembered most of all for his unfailing support and assistance during the Falklands War". Mr Weinberger told *The Times* yesterday: "It's a great honour. I'm very pleased, surprised and delighted. I was astonished when I was first told by the Ambassador in Washington (Sir Antony Acland)."

On the US support for Britain during the Falklands War in 1982, Mr Weinberger said: "I was very glad to be of help during the Falklands War. It could never have been won without the enormous skills and effectiveness of the

British forces but we were able to help with logistical support."

Mr Weinberger resigned last year after increasing concern over the poor health of his wife, Jane, who now spends most of her time in a wheelchair and is in constant pain. But he said that he hoped to bring her to London next month for the award ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Mr Weinberger will not be able to call himself "Sir" because, as a foreigner, he is only entitled to an honorary knighthood. It is believed to be the first time that a former member of an American Administration has been given such an honour. Other people awarded an honorary knighthood include Bob Geldof, the Irish rock singer who raised millions of pounds for Ethiopian famine relief; Alistair Cooke, the broadcaster and Douglas Fairbanks jun., the actor.



Mr Weinberger: Unfailing supporter during Falklands.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

GCSE 'too hard for thousands'

GCSE, the new school-leaving qualification once hailed as an examination for all, is already proving too difficult for tens of thousands of less able youngsters in England and Wales, the Secondary Heads Association said yesterday.

It claimed that a growing number of pupils were opting out — four months before the first examination is to be taken — because they are disillusioned and overwhelmed with work.

Mr John Sutton, the president of the association, said GCSE was likely to exclude an even larger proportion of 16-year-olds than GCE and CSE, the two examinations it replaces. Together, they were taken by about 80 per cent of the age group.

Nurse gets life

A nurse who persuaded two men to help to kill her husband so she could claim £9,000 insurance was yesterday jailed for life. Ann Harris, aged 28, was convicted of murder at Maidstone Crown Court.

John Cobain, aged 18, and Terence Williams, aged 20, lodged with Harris in French Road, Tonbridge, Kent. They suffocated her husband with a pillow and then helped her to dump his body to make it appear he was the victim of a mugging or an accident. Each was sentenced to life custody.

Rare snakes stolen

Police are investigating the theft of 11 rare snakes, including breeding groups considered to be almost irreplaceable, from the reptile house at London Zoo.

The zoo has put a value of £7,000 on the stolen snakes, although their rarity makes them priceless to snake experts. A substantial reward is being offered for their return.

Concern of BMA

The British Medical Association yesterday voiced ethical doubts over the world's first television channel for doctors and strongly denied that it was backing the project.

The channel, which is to be transmitted by the BBC, will provide medical information to doctors in surgeries and hospitals.

Hour-long programmes, containing a 15-minute medical news summary and specialist clinical information, will be transmitted seven days a week to video recorders by BBC-2 between midnight and 5am.

Jail escaper captured

London police yesterday recaptured a man who escaped from Pentonville prison before Christmas while awaiting trial for alleged violent offences. Aliou Cessay, aged 21, was arrested in Battersea, south London, after police vehicles were used to block a Citroen car.

He escaped with William Shoemith, also aged 21 and on remand awaiting trial for robbery, by tunnelling through a wall using tools from the prison workshop.

New wind generator

The largest wind generator yet built in England, supplying enough power to feed 1,000 homes, will be at Richborough, Kent.

The generator will have three rotor blades with a 160-foot diameter. It will be built by James Howden at factories in Glasgow and Southampton, and site work will begin in May.

At present the world's most powerful wind-generator is the 18-foot diameter unit at Bugar Hill on Orkney, which provides power for 2,000 homes.

£546,000 award

A boy aged three who was left brain-damaged at birth after being deprived of oxygen was awarded £546,000 agreed damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr George Carman, QC, for the boy, said that Andrew White, of Redcar Road, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, would have profound disabilities for the rest of his life. He was unemployable.

The Harold Wood Hospital, Romford, had been negligent and the Barking, Havering and Brentwood Health Authority now accepted full liability.

Hospitals prepare for strikes
Routine operations cancelled

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Hospitals made contingency plans yesterday for the strikes this week, which start today at the Maudsley psychiatric hospital, south London.

Hundreds of non-urgent operations have been cancelled and managers say that many hospitals will provide only emergency services. Health service unions estimate that about 2,000 nurses may take part in the action in more than 25 hospitals.

Mr Harry Field, director of nursing services at the Maudsley, said that of the hospital's 300 nurses only about 60 would normally be on duty today. "We have negotiated minimum levels of about two to three nurses on wards, instead of the usual level of four to five nurses," Mr Field said. "But we have an expanded emergency team and we have arranged with the unions that, if necessary, we will call nurses off picket lines."

Mr Field said that some extra agency staff had been called in but many agency nurses would not want

to cross picket lines. It is also difficult to find experienced staff to cover for high technology units. "We have had very reasonable talks with the unions. There is a bit of a spirit of Dunkirk here, with ward staff and unions working together."

Staff nurse Mandy Sharp said that about 100 nurses planned to come out between 7.15 this morning and 7.15 tomorrow. "We have found that in many cases emergency cover is the level we have been working at in any case."

Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse) nurses at Charing Cross, west London, are to go ahead with their unofficial strike tomorrow. Hospital managers denied union claims that staff had been threatened with dismissal if they joined in the strike.

Cohse yesterday challenged the Chancellor of the Exchequer to forgo 2p tax cuts in this year's Budget and spend an extra £2.5 billion on the health service instead.

The union, which has 220,000 members, said that industrial action

would be stepped up if Mr Nigel Lawson failed to announce more money for the NHS on March 15.

Launching the union's Charter for Health, Mr Hector Mackenzie, Cohse's general secretary, said that £2 billion of the £2.5 billion needed to fund a 2p tax cut should be spent on patient services to bring NHS spending in line with 1979 levels of service. A further £500 million should be spent this year on pay and conditions of staff, and to fund the pay review body award.

Health service unions have already called for a 20 per cent pay rise for nurses.

In the long term, the charter says, health spending should rise by 2.5 per cent every year above the increase in GDP over the next 12 years to bring it up to the West European average.

Miss Judith Carter, Cohse national officer for nurses and midwives said that the Prime Minister was "perpetuating nursing shortages, ward closures and long waiting lists. Nurses are taking action to get themselves and their patients a better deal." Many

people would be prepared to give up a tax cut if they knew the money was going directly into the health service.

Mr Mackenzie said that the union would now call on other health service unions, the British Medical Association and the royal medical colleges to back the charter, which also states that funding should continue through the tax system. The charter would be presented to Mr Lawson directly, he said.

The introduction of medical facilities for the community through a partnership between the NHS and the Royal British Legion was announced in London yesterday.

At a press conference, General Sir Edward Burgess, president of the Royal British Legion, said that new developments at the Legion's Churchill Centre for Assessment and Rehabilitation in Maidstone, Kent, will be available not only to ex-servicemen, women and their dependents but also to patients of the local community.

The centre is staffed and managed by the Maidstone Health Authority.

Heavy storms deepen farmers' gloom

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

Millions of acres of farmland are under water after storms on Sunday night added to the flooding caused by weeks of heavy rain.

Cereal growers unable to plant winter crops after last year's difficult harvest, which in southern and eastern England came after one of the wettest summers on record, are already questioning whether the land will dry out in time for spring sowing.

The heavy demand for spring wheat and barley seed has already sent prices soaring even though it is impossible to get machinery on to fields to prepare the soil.

Rivers have burst their banks across the country from Devon and Cornwall to East Anglia, and north to Yorkshire and Scotland. Conditions range from heavy, glacial mud to fields under several feet of water.

Arable crops planted in the autumn are at risk of being washed away, particularly on light soils, and some of the most fertile land, such as the low-lying Fens of East Anglia, have been affected particularly badly.

Most livestock is either kept indoors at this time of year or has been moved to higher ground and is in no immediate danger, but flooded and inaccessible pasture has brought headaches for sheep farmers in many parts of the West Country.

Yesterday, Mr Richard



Mr Robert Young, who farms at Gatwick, west Sussex, in one of his flooded wheat fields.

Macdonald, secretary of the Devon branch of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said that the whole county was saturated.

He said: "Springs are coming up where they have never been seen before. This could cause a very serious environmental pollution problem because many slurry pits are full to overflowing. Even if we get a few weeks of dry weather, the land will take a long time to dry out."

In Suffolk, the NFU said there had been no reports of immediate distress but much of the sugar beet crop had been lost. Farmers who wanted to clear trees blown down in last October's hurricane had been unable to take advantage of the Government's grant aid.

Many winter crops in the North-east are under water and there are fears of serious soil erosion.

The National Farmers'

Union of Scotland said that field work had been hampered because of water on the land but livestock farmers were grateful for what had so far been an unusually mild winter.

The horticultural areas of south-east England have also been affected badly. Mr David Butterworth, deputy county secretary of the NFU's Kent and East Sussex branch, said it was impossible to use machinery to harvest vegetables.

Workforce briefed on Ford deal

By John Spicer
Employment Affairs Correspondent

Production was slowed at many of Ford's 22 plants yesterday as employees sought out details of the pay deal that averted their threatened strike.

Meetings were held throughout yesterday so that shop stewards could brief union members on the deal before the workforce of more than 32,000 employees vote on the package tomorrow.

Sixteen people at the Halewood plant on Merseyside walked out in protest at the deal and production was apparently disrupted for a short time.

The strike was averted four hours before it was scheduled to begin at midnight on Sunday when Ford management and the unions agreed a three-year package.

The deal, which is being recommended by union leaders, gives all workers a 7 per cent rise this year and rises of 2.5 per cent above the rate of inflation over the second and third years.

It has been estimated that, with an average annual inflation rate of 4.5 per cent, employees will be about £50 a week better off in the third year of the package.

In return, the unions have promised more flexible working but to a lesser degree than was originally demanded.

Strike brings pits to a halt

By Roland Rude

Pit deputies yesterday brought all but two of British Coal's 103 collieries to a standstill, managing to do in one day what Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, failed to accomplish during the entire strike of 1984-85.

The 8,787 members of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Shotfriers and Deputies (Nacods) went on strike in support of their demand for parity with miners on productivity payments.

British Coal's immediate reaction was anger, particularly as it feels the dispute is largely the result of a negotiating error by Nacods.

Last year the pit deputies negotiated to have their bonuses, then worth £42 a week, consolidated into wages. Since then productivity has been breaking all records and Nacods says its members are fed up with being paid only £45 a day for supervising miners who can more than double that.

The speed with which the pit officials implemented their 90 per cent mandate for strike action surprised British Coal. Nacods is threatening a ban on overtime and industrial action to disrupt different pits at different times.

British Coal said the action was "a flagrant break of the conciliation agreement" and suggested there was "an unholy alliance with militants in the National Union of Mineworkers to create disorder and mayhem".

It suspects a plot between militants in both unions because the strike action coincides with a special delegate conference today of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) which will decide whether to step up its overtime ban, which has lasted four months but has had little effect.

The coalfield chaos created by the deputies could be an important filip to Mr Scargill's plans to escalate his union's action.

In spite of British Coal's fears, there are few, if any, militants in Nacods. Its members are promoted from the NUM as middle managers and jealously guard their pay differentials and management perks, which are often resented by the NUM.

Although Mr Peter McNestry, general secretary of Nacods, is to the left of recent holders of his office and is on friendly terms with Mr Scargill, he did not give the NUM details of the strike plans. One pit official said yesterday that Mr Scargill was angry about not being consulted.

Mr Edward Lane, vice president of Nacods, said: "It is disillusionment over pay which gave us our vote for industrial action, nothing to do with unholy alliances. The board seems to be paranoid about unholy alliances."

The deputies believe they are losing up to £100 a week in productivity payments. The situation has become so ludicrous, union officials say, that in some parts of the country managements have been giving cash incentives for deputies to come in early to carry out essential safety work.

"Sometimes there would be backhanders; a fiver here, £3 there", one deputy said. British Coal said it had no knowledge of the practice.

British Coal has offered to restore separate bonus payments or to increase pay £28 per cent, worth between £9.77 and £11.01 a week. Nacods wants more of both: incentive payments plus a basic rise of £25 with a 30 per cent increase in weekend work this year and a further 30 per cent next year.

Nacods members are also being offered £16 a week for an extra two hours' work. The union fears that will lead to six-day working. It is willing to negotiate nationally but not locally. British Coal will only negotiate at local level.

During the 1984-85 strike, British Coal's 103 collieries produced 1.5 million tons of coal. The union's 8,787 members are paid £45 a day for supervising miners who can more than double that.

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Black jury call halts inquest

By Craig Seton

An inquest on a young black man who died in a struggle with police was halted yesterday after Mr Paul Boateng, the Labour MP and solicitor, objected to the all-white jury.

Mr Boateng, representing the family of Clinton McCurbin, aged 23, who died almost a year ago, said he would seek a judicial review in the High Court in an attempt to force the coroner to include black people on the jury.

After the inquest at Wolverhampton was adjourned indefinitely, Mrs Esther McCurbin, the dead man's mother, said: "I do not think we will get justice with an all-white jury and I am here to get justice".

Mr Boateng, MP for Brent South, had appealed to Mr Keith Swaine, the Wolverhampton coroner, to include some people of Afro-Caribbean origin on the jury.

Mr Swaine said the jury had been summoned in accordance with the provisions of the Coroners' Jury Act, 1983, and a Home Office circular.

Mr Boateng made his submission as soon as the 11 white jurors took their seats yesterday. He said, in his absence, that the jury should be a representative cross-section of the Wolverhampton population. It should be a multi-racial jury including members of the Afro-Caribbean community.

"The grief stricken family are being asked to put their trust and confidence in an inquiry into their son's death at the hands of white policemen in the hands of white people who have no knowledge of what it is to be a young black man in police custody in Wolverhampton", he said. Mr McCurbin's death had caused serious civil disorder.

Afterwards, Mr Boateng said that Mr McCurbin had died in suspicious circumstances. He described Mr Swaine's decision as outrageous.

Mr McCurbin died after a struggle with two police officers who were trying to arrest him in a fashion shop in Wolverhampton town centre.

Irish will not see Stalker's report

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will today refuse to allow Irish Ministers to see a full copy of the Stalker-Sampson report on the RUC.

He will risk further worsening relations with Dublin by refusing to outline the considerations of public interest that led to the decision not to prosecute RUC officers.

When he attends the most crucial meeting of British and Irish Ministers since the Anglo Irish agreement was signed in 1985 he will tell the Irish Ministers that the decision is a matter for the Attorney General in his capacity as a law officer.

Mr King has not seen the parts of the inquiry relating to a shoot-to-kill policy but he has considered the volume concerning RUC organization and a subsequent report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary on procedures within the force.

Mr King will attempt to assuage the Irish delegation and the wider nationalist community north and south of the border by indicating that Sir John Hermon, the RUC's chief constable, will consider disciplining officers against whom there is evidence of conspiring or attempting to pervert the course of justice.

The penalties range from a reprimand to dismissal from

the force and it is considered inconceivable that disciplinary action will not take place.

Yesterday the Labour party failed to get an emergency debate on the inquiry into whether the RUC had a shoot-to-kill policy in the winter of 1982. Five unarmed Republican terrorists and a nationalist youth died in disputed circumstances in Co Armagh within a matter of weeks.

Mr Kevin McNamara, the shadow Northern Ireland spokesman, wanted to know whether disciplinary proceedings would be taken against Sir John Hermon, Mr Trevor Forbes, the assistant chief constable, and other officers allegedly involved in hampering Mr John Stalker's investigation of the shoot-to-kill claims.

The Irish Government shares the growing mood among Northern Ireland Catholics that confidence in the Royal Ulster Constabulary will be restored only through the early departure of Sir John Hermon, the Chief Constable, and other senior officers.

An Irish Government official said last night that the claims by Mr John Stalker of obstruction by Sir John in obtaining a tape of the shooting of a youth aged 17 in a hushy in County Armagh, will add to the pressure on Sir John to resign.

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'Flashover' at King's Cross turned fire into inferno within seconds

Staff and rescuers acted rationally, inquiry told

By Rodney Cowton and Tony Dawe

The inquiry into the King's Cross Underground station fire disaster, in which 31 people died, was warned at the start of its business yesterday against lightly criticizing members of British Transport Police whose actions in trying to assist passengers may have led many to their deaths.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, said it would require cogent evidence to persuade him that the "comprehensible and rational" decisions of the police officers in sending passengers up the Victoria line escalators, which in fact carried them towards the fire, deserved criticism.

He outlined the chronology of events from about 7.20pm until 8pm on November 18, and said about 100,000 passengers could have been expected to use the King's Cross station between 4pm and 6.30pm.

Had the fire started then, the number of casualties would have been of a different order of magnitude.

The fire probably started at about 7.20pm, and began on the right hand side of escalator 4, serving the Piccadilly line.

"It seems most probable that a person travelling up the Piccadilly line escalator had discarded a match as he or she lit a cigarette.

The match could have fallen — and probably did — through a gap between the tread and the skirting board. About six inches below was an accumulation of grease, dust and debris, in places one inch deep.

"The grease and dust caught fire and took hold just under halfway up the escalator. The traveller continued on his or her way not knowing what they had set in motion."

The inquiry saw a video film of experiments by the Health and Safety Executive to simulate the fire. It showed that within seven and a half minutes of a match being dropped through a gap between the tread and the skirting board of an escalator, flames were beginning to emerge onto the treads. Three lighted cigarettes similarly dropped failed to achieve the same effect.

Mr Henderson said the fire seemed to have been "small and innocuous, and not until about 7.30pm did it become apparent. A passenger pressed the emergency button at the top of escalator and warned a London Underground official.

It appeared that tickets continued to be issued from the ticket office for about five minutes after 7.28pm.

After the emergency button had been pressed, a railwayman went down escalator 5, which was the middle one of a bank of three, and could see a small flame under the tread.

Two policemen were called and noticed flames about three to four inches high beneath the escalator tread. One of them called the fire brigade at 7.33pm on his personal radio, and by 7.36pm seven fire appliances had been ordered to attend.

Passengers were still using

one of the Piccadilly line escalators, and police officers decided to close all three.

This happened at about 7.35pm, said Mr Henderson. Policemen closed off two escalators and a railwayman tried to block the third, but passengers removed restrictive tape to ascend the escalator.

One railwayman was pushed over by passengers trying to get to the top.

At 7.42pm, the first fire brigade appliance arrived, quickly followed by several others.

Station Officer Colin Townsley, who was to die in the fire, and other firemen went to the ticket hall. Flames were then five to six feet high in the escalator shaft and burning strongly. Mr Townsley told his men to put on breathing gear.

Mr Henderson said a fire hydrant in the ticket hall was blocked off by a builder's hoarding. It had two 100ft hoses and additional equipment. It was invisible to the firefighters and inaccessible.

British Transport Police officers at the top of the escalators decided that people on the Victoria line platform had to be evacuated. They left the ticket hall, went down the Victoria line escalator, and started to clear the platform, directing waiting passengers up the Victoria line escalator.

"The significance of this and its implications will become tragically apparent. There may be some who will criticize it before all the facts are known", Mr Henderson said.

He made these points:

● The decision to evacuate was taken for good reasons, given the presence of a developing fire and the foreseeable risk to passengers.

● The decision to prevent other passengers arriving at the station by ordering trains not to stop was taken so that additional passengers should be kept away from danger.

● Nobody had any expectation that the ticket hall was soon to become an inferno.

● Although directing people up the Victoria line escalator took them closer to the fire, it was also the simplest way out of the station.

● The decisions made by people in emergencies should not be judged with hindsight.

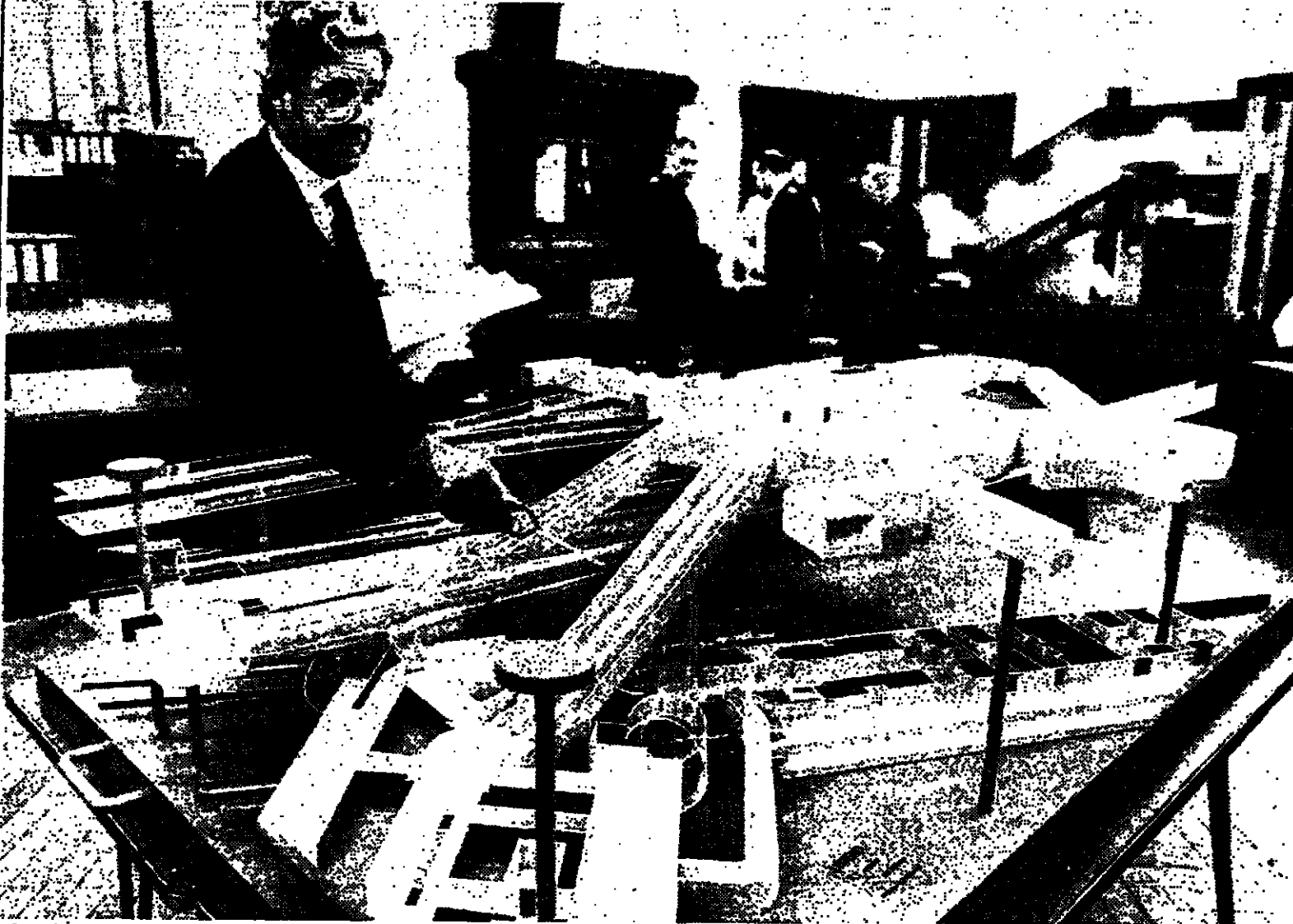
Mr Henderson said a "flashover" from the throat of the escalator shaft into the ticket hall, which occurred in seconds, turned the fire into an inferno. Large quantities of dense, hot, acrid smoke engulfed the ticket hall and raced to the exits from the station.

Temperatures in some places exceeded 600 C.

Hot smoke engulfed passengers on the Victoria line escalators. Those in the ticket hall were covered by flames and smoke.

Mr Henderson said those people who died in the station did so very quickly.

There was little or no panic. People kept their heads. Police, firemen and railway staff appeared to have acted authoritatively before the flashover.



Mr Roger Henderson with a model of station, pointing to the escalator where the fire is thought to have started (Photograph: Dennis McNeelane).

Radio links may have cost lives

Poor communications may have cost some passengers their lives at King's Cross, the inquiry was told.

"I fear some passengers, including one who, so far as we are aware, had no reason to descend at King's Cross, may have understood the train driver's instruction was to get off, when in truth the instruction was not to get off", Mr Henderson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, said yesterday. "That lady thereafter lost her life."

At 7.43pm, 50 people arrived at the station on a train which had stopped just too late to obey the instructions of Underground line controllers.

At 7.45, a southbound Northern line train stopped, a southbound Victoria line train passed through and a northbound Victoria line train

stopped to evacuate passengers. Evidence from London Underground showed eight communication systems:

● Automatic phones covering the entire railway system.

● Direct line phones to a private network of high security lines.

● Signal phones linking drivers to station supervisory staff.

● A tunnel phone allowing drivers to switch off current.

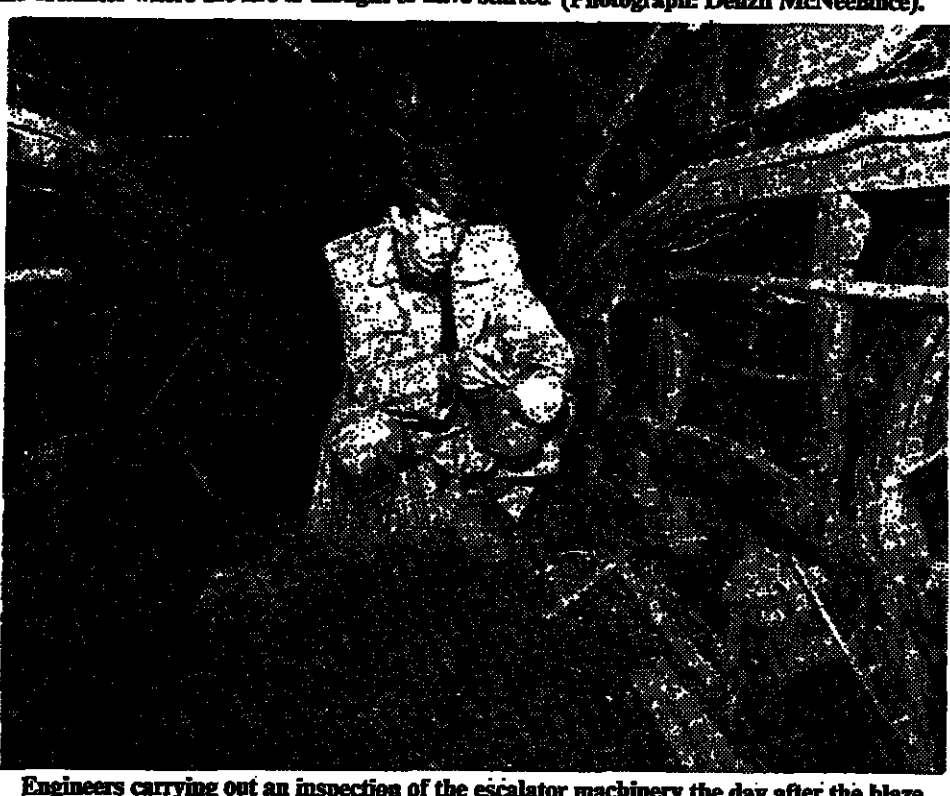
● Radios on the Piccadilly, Northern, Metropolitan and Circle lines.

● Public address systems.

● A breakdown broadcast system.

● Closed circuit television.

"At least one statement suggests drivers did not have confidence in the reliability of their communication systems and not all worked", Mr Henderson said.



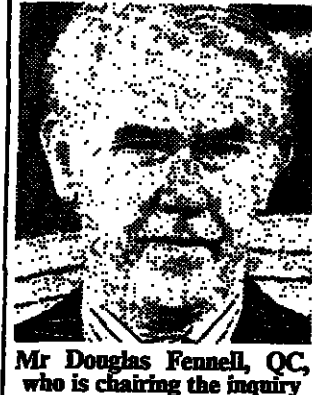
Engineers carrying out an inspection of the escalator machinery the day after the blaze.

Victims of the London Underground disaster

Among the 31 who died in the fire were: Neville Eve, 36, of Faraday Road, Slough; Jane Fairley, 26, of Crane Grove, Holloway, north London; Kuntzian Govindarajan, 22, of Garfield Street, Plaistow, east London; Graham Hall, 26, of Gandhi Close, Walthamstow, east London; Bernadette Kearney, 23, of Allan Way, Acton, west London; Bobby Khan, 22, of Eldon Road, Wood Green, north London; Laurence Moran, 25, of Bosanquet Close, Cowley, Uxbridge.

Mark Bryant, 18, from east London; Andrew Burnett, 40, from Chesham, Hertfordshire; Treema Chappell, 17, from Upper Holloway, north London; Dean Cottle, aged seven, and Sushella Cottle, 25, of Walthamstow, east London; Sarah Dearden, 33, of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk; Natalie Falco, 65, of Oakwood, north London; Jonathan George, 20s, of Leicester; Michael Holden, 40, of Islington, north London.

Bobby Keegan, 45, of Luton, Bedfordshire; Marco Liberati, 25, student from Italy; Geoffrey Marks, 55, of Ringwood, Hampshire; Lawrence Newcombe, 27, a nurse, of central London; Stephen Parsons, 35, St Albans, Hertfordshire; Rai Singh, 34, of Walthamstow, east London; Ivan Tarasenko, 25, a sculptor, of Dyfed; Colin Townsley, 45, fireman, of Lewisham, south London; an unidentified man.



Mr Douglas Fennell, QC, who is chairing the inquiry

The lessons of tragedy 'must be learnt quickly'

The sheer scale of the official inquiry into the King's Cross Underground fire had surprised everyone, including himself, Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, the inquiry chairman, said yesterday.

At the opening of the first formal session of the inquiry, Mr Fennell was told that more than 500 witness statements, totalling 60,000 pages, had been given and that it was a huge task sorting the masses of documents.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, said: "Analysis has become a prodigious task. Reports have been commissioned and will be made available at the earliest possible time."

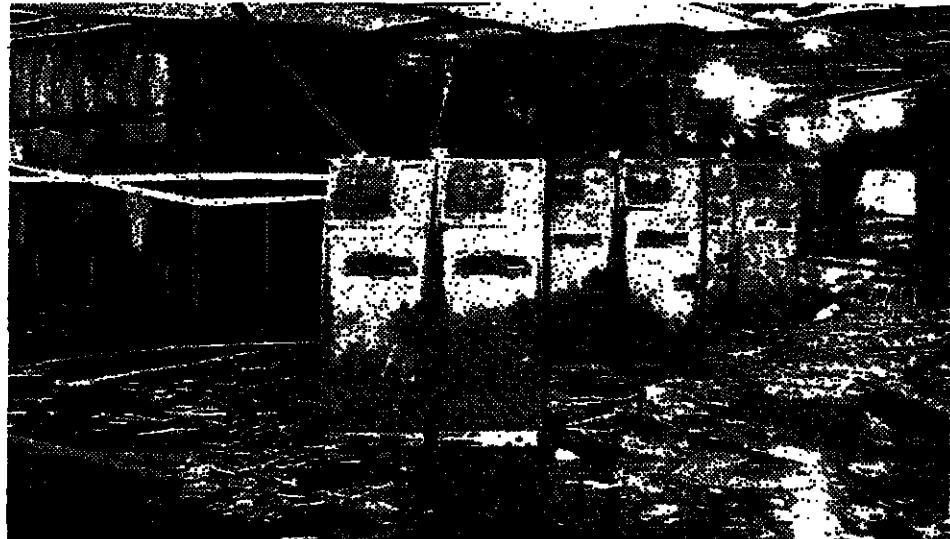
Mr Fennell said: "When I opened the investigation on December 2, I said I wished to proceed with speed — but I had no idea, indeed I suspect that no one could have had any idea, of the scale and depth that the inquiries in this investigation would involve."

The inquiry would be dealing with three matters: establishing how the fire happened, why the disaster occurred and to see if recommendations could be made to try to ensure "that a disaster of this magnitude never happens again".

Mr Henderson, in his opening statement, said more than 200 witness statements had yet to be supplied.

Mr Henderson said the inquiry would not be stopped from coming to impartial conclusions in spite of the fact that some people might have doubts because of the constitution, including the background, of its expert assessors.

Mr Henderson said: "There will be some who say that the court will not, by virtue of its constitution, have the freedom considered indispensable to make impartial conclusions or may make unpalatable recommendations."



The ravaged booking hall at King's Cross after the inferno.

sions or may make unpalatable recommendations."

It was necessary to point out that Mr Fennell himself had sole responsibility for the content of the report.

"The assessors are there to assist the court and they have no function and no responsibility to make ultimate decisions", Mr Henderson said.

He was confident the assessors had an invaluable role. "No conflict of interest will be allowed to prevail over their best professional experience and scientific judgement."

The starting of the inquiry at the earliest possible date in spite of the fact that background work was still going on was considered essential, Mr Henderson said.

"If there are lessons to be learned, they must be learned at the earliest possible moment."

"If by taking remedial action, if the escalators — particularly the old-fashioned escalators, involving a substantial number of

can be made more safe, it is something the public is entitled to know about at the earliest possible moment."

Mr Henderson said he would be showing videos of the night of the fire made by the London Fire Brigade and the police, together with a Health and Safety Executive video on the reconstruction on January 8 of the fire circumstances.

The full-size section of part of an escalator standing at the side of the court, together with plans and models, would help the inquiry as evidence was called, he said.

The inquiry was not only to find the immediate cause of the accident but also the indirect causes involving the way the Underground was run from a safety point of view, he said.

Mr Henderson said the "wholly unacceptable casualty numbers of the fire disaster were vastly reduced from what would have been the case if the fire had broken out during the rush hour."

Mr Henderson said he had read every letter addressed to the court, the Prime Minister or MPs to ensure public concern about safety was properly represented.

He said the questions the inquiry must answer were the cause of the fire, the materials involved in fueling the blaze, and how it spread.

It must also consider what caused the "violent and undoubtedly unexpected flashover" from the escalator shaft to the ticket hall.

The inquiry would be looking at the disastrous development from an apparently innocent beginning to such a catastrophic result.

Listing 44 questions that needed to be answered, Mr Henderson said they would need to look at such issues as:

● What was it that killed and mutilated the victims?

● Why were there people still in the area when the flashover occurred?

● What fire-extinguishing equipment was available and

was it used?

● Were there adequate methods for escape?

● What lighting systems existed and did they work satisfactorily?

Mr Henderson said another question would be on the management structure of London Underground and who had responsibility for the safety of passengers and staff.

He said there was a "groundswell of opinion" from Underground travellers that it was difficult to find staff on platforms or ticket halls.

A member of the public shouted "hear, hear" in support.

Mr Henderson said: "If the discovery of fires are best achieved by eyes and noses of railway staff and passengers, the fewer the staff the graver the problem and we may therefore conclude staffing levels will be important."

He said that the inquiry had received letters claiming refurbishment was proceeding at the expense of safety measures.

Mr Henderson said the inquiry must try to discover how the escalator at the centre of the disaster was maintained and cleaned.

Mr Henderson said the heroism of Mr Colin Townsley, the fireman who died in the disaster, and that of Mr Steven Hanson, a British Transport Police constable who was burned, had been internationally acclaimed.

"There is no need to criticize the actions of any of the people who acted with great courage. But when a fireman dies, it is imperative that lessons are learnt. Inquiries must be made and questions answered."

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February 1 1988

PARLIAMENT

Government is to hold talks with BP and Britoil

With BP about to get control of more than half the shares of Britoil, the Government would hold discussions with the two companies, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told MPs.

He said that the acceptability of BP's bid depended on those talks and that it would not be sensible for him to give details of the outcome that was in his mind.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition Treasury spokesman, said that it had been proved yet again that privatization led to the bolstering of monopoly.

Mr Lawson, who was replying to a private notice question from Mr Smith on how he proposed to use the "golden share" to preserve the independence of Britoil, said that Arco had formally agreed to sell its 24 per cent holding in Britoil to BP, which already had 29.8 per cent.

In those circumstances, the Government would hold discussions with BP and Britoil. It would not be sensible to give details of the outcome which was in his mind (Labour cries of "Why not?").

The powers of the special share would be used for so long as it was in the national interest to do so and in a way that took into account the best for Scotland and the development of the North Sea.

Mr Smith said that it was clear to everyone that BP had effective control of Britoil and unless the Government used its special share Britoil would cease to be an independent company.

He quoted Mr Lawson, then Secretary of State for Energy, on March 31, 1982, that "the very existence of this special share will act as the most formidable deterrent to anyone who tries to take over the control of the board, of the company or of the majority of the shares."

Mr Smith: Are BP acceptable or unacceptable to the Government?

On April 1, 1982, the then Minister of State, now Lord Gray of Contin, had said that the regulations would contain effective safeguards of Britoil's independence and the safeguards would be triggered if there was an attempt to take over effective control of the company or control of the board or its composition.

In the light of these specific assurances given by the Chancellor or on his behalf, when was he going to honour them? The Chancellor should now say emphatically he will use the

CHANCELLOR

special share to maintain Britoil as an independent company which was independent in every way.

He said that it was time that the Chancellor cleared the whole matter up and made it crystal clear that the golden share would be used to achieve the objectives that he had laid down.

Mr Lawson: I have made the position crystal clear. Britoil had enjoyed complete independence for some five years. He was glad that Mr Smith had quoted his words on March 31, 1982.

Mr Lawson read them again, emphasizing the words "which the Government consider to be unacceptable".

"It was quite clear from the beginning that the possibility of acceptable change of control was there."

The question was whether control by BP was acceptable. That depended on the outcome



Mr John Smith: Privatization leads to monopoly

of the discussions. That was precisely what they were about. It was very strange to hear Mr Smith treating BP as if it were some kind of pariah. On October 29 last year Mr Smith had complained that the first victim of the sale of BP shares would be BP, which would be a matter of great seriousness for this country.

Mr Lawson: He makes a pertinent point.

Mr Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Govan, Lab) said that BP was wholly unacceptable as far as staff and management of Britoil were concerned.

At the very least, they wanted

Britoil to remain an independent company and for its headquarters to remain in Glasgow.

Mr Lawson replied that he was very conscious of the Scottish dimension. Mr Millan might not find BP acceptable, but Mr John Smith had shown the greatest solicitude for its welfare only three months ago.

Whether the change of control to BP was acceptable would be dependent on the discussions.

Mr Malcolm Bruce, Liberal spokesman on Trade and Industry, said that BP's takeover of Britoil was its revenge on the Government for allowing the share sale to go ahead. BP was in direct confrontation with the Government.

The existence of Britoil as an independent company was not just for Scotland but also for the healthy development of exploration activity in the North Sea.

Mr Lawson said that suggestions of any difference between BP and himself over the BP share issue were untrue.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, Lab) said that he believed it was right for there to be a big foreign interest in the North Sea, but no one contemplated the chance of virtually the whole of our oil industry in the North Sea being sold to foreign interests.

He said that one of the wisest decisions of the Government was to keep the golden share and keep some control in our hands.

Mr Tony Benn (Cheshire, Lab) said that both as energy minister and Chancellor, Mr Lawson was the man to throw away control of oil reserves and revenues accruing from them.

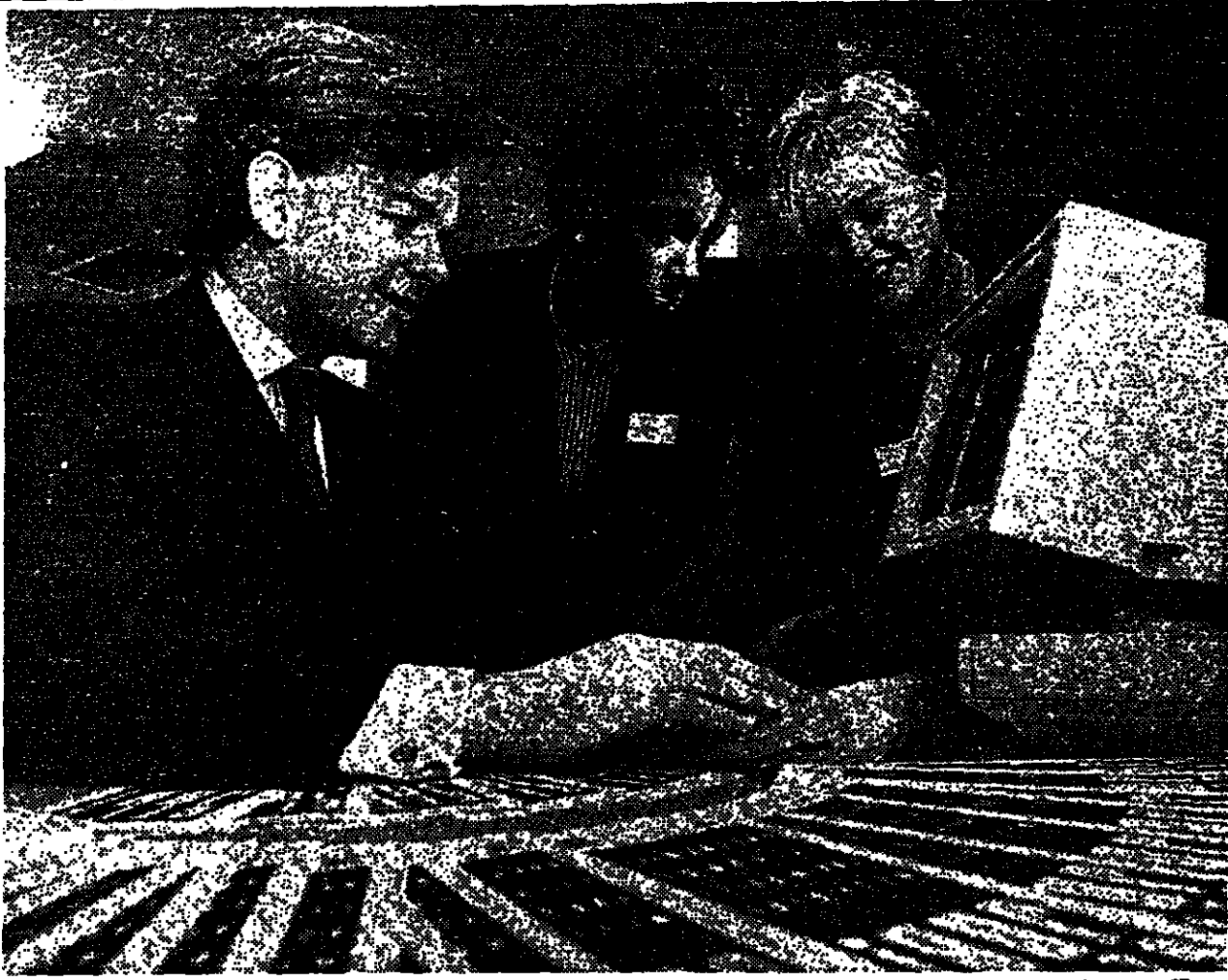
Mr Lawson said that it was no longer necessary for the British Government to own shares in BP. Mr Benn had presided over the first sale of BP shares.

Mr Edward Rowlands (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, Lab) asked if Mr Lawson did not remember saying many times that the whole point of creating Britoil was to have a new independent company in the North Sea. What price that independence now?

Mr Lawson replied that he was anxious to have the best possible development of the UK continental shelf. But he did not think it followed that that had to be secured by Britoil remaining unconnected with BP.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet South, C) urged him to take a friendly approach to the forthcoming discussions. It was inconceivable that BP ownership could be contrary to the national interest.

Mr Lawson replied that the discussion would be in the nature of hard negotiations conducted in an amicable atmosphere.



Mr John Patten, Minister of State, Home Office, with Charmaine Dugdale (centre) and Jamie Cornell, task force officer, using a computer terminal at the start in London yesterday of the Blue Arrow inner-city training project. The project, launched at the north Peckham branch of Brook Street, a Blue Arrow company, involves unemployed people being offered free assessments, professional advice and opportunities to join various training programmes (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

Christmas injuries down 16%

TRANSPORT

Encouraged by a survey showing a sharp fall in the number of people willing to risk driving after drinking, and by the reduction of drink-drive accidents since 1978, Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, urged more publicity about the issue.

Preliminary police figures indicated an encouraging 16 per cent reduction in injury accidents during the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Full figures were expected later this year, Mr Bottomley said during Commons questions.

He was replying to Mr Timothy Smith (Barnsley, C), who said that, contrary to recent suggestions on the *That's Life* programme, nobody in the House should be in any doubt about the minister's commitment to tackling the problem of drinking and driving.

Rather than introducing random breath-testing, which would have a disastrous effect on the relationship between the police and public, the right way to go about this was to influence public attitudes and behaviour.

Mr Bottomley said that the police had wide powers, which he wished all the media covering this issue would emphasize.

He said that 8,000 to 10,000 motorists are caught driving above the legal limit every month, 4,000 of them at twice the legal limit and 20 times

breath-testing now. The House should review this matter so that apparent anomalies could be ended.

Mr Bottomley replied that perhaps the Opposition could use its parliamentary time for such a debate (protests).

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Stretford, Lab) asked if the campaign before Christmas against drinking and driving would be continued through the year.

Mr Bottomley: It would be a mistake to look at the bribes to the media in paid advertising as the only way to raise public awareness. This should be covered as part of news and current affairs.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing, C) asked for better back-up. People had been kept in police stations for five or six hours for blood tests. They had got very cross about the situation, and rightly so.

Mr Bottomley: It is important to make sure that those who are victims just as much as those who are offenders.

Later, Mr Bottomley said that responses to surveys suggested a reduction of up to 50 per cent between 1978 and 1986 in the number of people who risked drinking and driving.

"The figures show a downward trend in drink-drive injury

accidents, from 20,352 in 1978 to 18,254 in 1986."

A General Accident-Gallup survey taken a week before Christmas indicated that the number of male drivers prepared to risk drink-driving over the limit had halved between 1986 and 1987.

Mr Robert Jones (West Herts, C) said that the figures were very welcome, although many people were still drinking and driving. The minister should suggest that more breweries should make non-alcoholic beer available in their public houses.

Mr Bottomley said that breweries were doing a great deal to persuade customers to drink non-alcoholic drinks or not to drive. He was encouraging more to stock non-alcoholic beers.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) said that there was a link between the fall in the number of people using public transport and the scrapping of free travel available under the former Greater London Council. If free transport was provided throughout the country there would be no problem of drink-driving.

Mr Bottomley said that nearly 500 people died each year on London's roads and it would be welcome if more journeys were made on public transport, which was much safer.

Battle to stop City jets

Strong opposition to jet aircraft being allowed to use the London City Airport was voiced by Mr Ronald Leighton (Newham North East, Lab) during Commons questions.

He said that assurances had been given earlier that such aircraft would not use the airport. That had been a condition of planning permission, but the operators had already applied for an extension of the runway and were hell-bent on introducing jets.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, replied that, to start with, this was a matter for the airport owners. It would involve an entirely new planning application. None had been made.

Mr Michael Colvis (Romney and Watlington, C) said that some jets were quieter than some turbo-prop aircraft. They had a unique facility in the Stoltrop and a unique aircraft in the British Aerospace 146, which could use it.

It seemed doubtful to be building a new bridge over the East London River Crossing directly in the flight approach. When would the inquiry into the suspension bridge report?

Mr Channon said that he had just received the inspector's report. It would take some time to consider. He would be as speedy as he could.

Ministerial rail trips

Transport ministers should leave their chauffeur-driven cars behind for a week and suffer the misery of travelling by British Rail alongside regular passengers, Mr Peter Smape, an Opposition spokesman on transport said during questions.

Even such left-wing malcontent as City analysts were saying that the rail system was having an adverse effect on Britain's balance of payments.

Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Transport, said that he and the Secretary of State (Mr Paul Channon) were regular users of the railway system. It was for British Rail to put forward proposals for investment and almost all of those submitted were approved. "I would be glad to have my in-tray filled again."

Unicef cash

The Government is to provide £600,000 to the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) to help the Ethiopian people, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, announced during Commons questions.

He said that that was in addition to the £35 million Britain had made available so far for humanitarian assistance because of the drought. The Government's contribution to the Unicef appeal was the joint third largest among national donations.

Move refused

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, told the Commons that he had recently discussed with the Director of Public Prosecutions the extremely unpleasant publication called *Holocaust News* and they both remained of the view that there should be no prosecution against it.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions. Emergency Prime Minister. Public Utility Transfers and Water Charges Bill, remaining stages. Motion on Industrial Training Levy (Engineering Board) Order. Lords (2.30): Local Government Bill, committee, fourth day.

'Spycatcher' £1½m wasted, says Labour

The costs so far incurred in the *Spycatcher* case amounted to £575,000. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, said during questions today.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that it was a waste of money.

He asked whether it was the Government's position that members of the security services could carry out criminal activities without any action being taken against them. The lack of any parliamentary scrutiny of the security services was a blot on Britain's democracy.

Sir Patrick reminded the House that the Home Secretary (Mr Douglas Hurd) had said in recent written answer that the Government had at no time asserted that any of the alleged actions featured in recent newspaper articles could legally be done under the (royal) prerogative if they would otherwise be criminal offences.

Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings and Rye, C) wondered why people such as Peter Wright and

Anthony Cavendish could flout British law without any action being taken against them.

Sir Patrick said that there were separate considerations in these two cases. Mr Wright was outside the jurisdiction of British courts, but action had been taken against him in the Australian courts. In the case of Mr Cavendish, civil proceedings had been taken in England and in Scotland.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L) wanted to know when the *Spycatcher* farce was going to end. Government action had led to the enrichment of Mr Wright.

Since the information in his book was now widely known throughout the world, was not the effect of keeping information from the British people that they could obtain it only by having a detrimental effect on Britain's balance of payments?

Sir Patrick again emphasized the importance of upholding the duty of confidentiality. That

LEGAL COSTS



Sir Patrick Mayhew: Should the Government stand back?

had now become common ground in this litigation.

Mr Justice Scott had said that Mr Wright was in flagrant breach of the life-long duty of

confidentiality owed to the Crown.

What had to be considered was whether the Government should stand back and allow somebody in that position to publish, for example in this country, which must be the most probable market, with all the consequences which would follow for the liaison security services of Britain's allies.

So it really was not right to describe this as a farce. It was a matter of serious import and it was still before the Court of Appeal.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) wanted an update on the costs so far incurred in the *Spycatcher* case by unnecessary and tedious questions by members of the Opposition and, in particular, by Mr Winnick (laughter).

Sir Patrick said that he never complained about the questions asked, but he sometimes complained at the reception that his

answers received.

Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, wondered whether the Treasury had suggested that there should be a cash limit on the worldwide litigious rampage of the Government (Labour laughter).

As there was considerable anxiety that the Legal Aid Bill would result in a second-class service for ordinary litigants, would the Attorney General publish a list of fees paid in the *Spycatcher* case and compare them with legal aid fees so that the House could have an idea of what was fair remuneration?

Sir Patrick said that the last time he had been asked about costs, he had said that he thought the money was well spent and he remained of that view. Costs to the Treasury would be much reduced if the Government was successful in claiming part of the profits.

It was not his practice to publish fees paid to particular lawyers in particular cases.

'In public interest' criteria queried

The Attorney General was asked during questions today in the Commons to define the criteria on which he based his advice to the Director of Public Prosecutions that a prosecution was not in the public interest.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet South, C) asked how he decided priorities between the public interest in maintaining the operational services, in avoiding a breakdown in Anglo-Irish relations and upholding the rule of law.

How and why did he choose? Sir Patrick Mayhew said that, having satisfied himself that the evidence was sufficient to justify proceedings, he then considered whether in any particular case the public interest required prosecution.

Each case was judged on its own facts and special regard was paid to the circumstances of the alleged offence and offenders, as well as to any other considerations affecting public policy. This was simply the application of long-established prin-

ciples previously endorsed by the Attorney General's guidelines and now reproduced in a Code for Crown Prosecutors.

Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, asked for clarification of the statement made by the Attorney General last Monday regarding responsibility and whether it was in the national interest to prosecute, and whether that decision was for the Attorney General and for him alone.

He also asked, if it was not in the national interest to prosecute, whether in his view that would be the end of the matter and the Director of Public Prosecutions had no role other than to implement his decision?

Sir Patrick said that Mr Morris knew that was not the case.

In every prosecuting decision, it had to be asked whether the public interest required a prosecution, even if the evidence was sufficient and the other criteria were met.

Guillotine 'allows generous time for schools debate'

The guillotine on the Education Reform Bill will allow more than twice as much time for debate in the Commons as that taken on the 1944 Act, Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the House, said.

He promised that the Secretary of State for Education and Science (Mr Kenneth Baker) would make a statement to the House if the Government changed its policy and decided to abolish the Inner London Education Authority.

Moving the guillotine, Mr Wakeham said that it represented the most generous timetable motion for 20 years.

If the standing committee considering the Bill continued to sit for 18 hours each week, there was the prospect of a further 90 hours of debate in committee.

With three days to be allowed for debate on the report stage and third reading, the total time the Bill was to be given was likely to be twice the 60 hours spent on the 1944 Act.

Constantly interrupted by Labour intervention, Mr Wakeham said that the Bill represented the most far-reaching reform and improvement of

EDUCATION

the education system since that Act.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) said that the abolition of the Inner London Education Authority had not been included in the manifesto, but now appeared to be on the agenda.

Mr Wakeham said that no decision had been taken on a change of policy on ILEA and therefore it was a hypothetical question.

If such a decision were taken Mr Baker would make a statement and further discussions would take place about the terms of the guillotine.

The Government had consulted widely on the Bill, issuing 13 consultation papers, sending out 10,000 copies to interested bodies and another 100,000 copies on request. A total of 17,000 responses had been received during the consultation period and thousands more since. All of them were being considered.

The committee considering the Bill was still on part one, and

it was important that parts two and three, involving provisions for further and higher education and ILEA, should be just as fully considered.

Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham South, Lab) said that the Bill was the size of three normal pieces of legislation. Forty clauses had so far been considered in 88 hours - a rate of two hours a clause, which was a good rate of progress.

Mr Wakeham said that he was not complaining about the rate of progress, but he was suggesting filibustering. I brought the motion forward not to prevent filibustering in the committee, but to ensure proper and measured discussion on all parts of a complex Bill.

The sub-committee which would allocate time to the various parts of the Bill would have considerable scope for manoeuvre.

"Those who cavil at the time provided for this motion should bear in mind that the 1944 Bill was considered in full in less than half the time of this one by a House deliberately being kept occupied by the Government of the day."

Ulster emergency laws are attacked

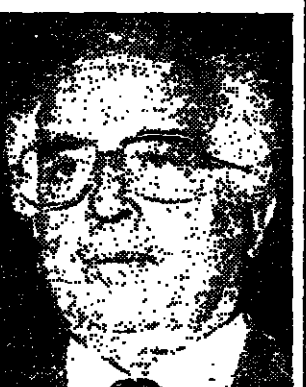
By Richard Ford Political Correspondent

Emergency legislation in Northern Ireland yesterday for exacerbating the climate of tension and alienating members of the minority community.

Mr Kevin McNamara, Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, attacked the Government for failing to increase the number of trials heard with juries, for rejecting three judges in Diplock courts, and for refusing to ban "supergrass" trials or to remove internment from the statute book.

In a submission to Lord Colville of Culross, who is heading an inquiry into the Emergency Provisions Act, Mr McNamara said: "Over the past 12 months, emergency legislation has continued to make the search for peace more difficult, to increase divisions and to curtail unjustifiably the civil liberties of the people of Northern Ireland."

The Labour Party was committed to reforming the Act, which he said had made little significant contribution towards ending the unhappy state of affairs in the province.



Mr McNamara: Search for peace made more difficult

He added that the Government's rejection of three-judge courts and other alternatives to the one-judge, no-jury Diplock courts had brought "growing disillusionment and despair" among those seeking change.

The Labour Party, he said, was committed to the eventual repeal of the 1978 Act, being convinced that the only route back to normality and peace was through winning the confidence of the whole in the administration of justice.

Scottish agency praised

Tory call for regional policy

By Our Political Correspondent

The Government is urged today to develop a co-ordinated regional policy as a means of restoring the Conservative Party's electoral fortunes in northern England.

The Tory Reform Group praises the approach of the Scottish Development Agency and calls for similar bodies to be set up for the North, North-west, Yorkshire and Humberside areas in England.

It says in a pamphlet that the Government's ideological opposition to the concept of regional assistance means that it has been unable to promote the success of the agency in Scotland, with the result that it takes much of the credit due to the Conservative Party for its achievements north of the border.

The pamphlet criticizes the Government's urban development corporations (UDCs) as being politically ineffective.

It warns ministers spearheading the drive to improve the inner cities that UDCs are perceived as benefiting developers without roots in the area rather than the local electorate

who are victims of industrial change.

The North-South divide cannot be ignored by the Government, and development agencies for parts of England would be created with more success than the UDCs.

"We fear UDCs may simply concentrate on pockets of very great deprivation while ignoring the surrounding areas of, perhaps, not so noticeable poverty and failure to harness the resources of neighbouring areas of prosperity."

The pamphlet says that the withdrawal of automatic regional development grants make development agencies essential for regions, which will have to promote themselves more forcefully if they are to attract investment.

"Development agencies for the North and North-west, and perhaps Yorkshire and Humberside too, would be able to make a comprehensive attack on the causes of decline: over-dependency on traditional industry and the lack of co-ordinated, venture capital to establish large-scale, new enterprises; long, ingrained social

attitudes and an antipathy to change and enterprise; opposition to "Tory initiatives", the group says in its pamphlet.

It adds that agencies for England would decentralize spending to bodies with a regional view and that, as unselected bodies, they would not be subject to pressure from single-issue interest groups or any single political party.

"Practical measures are, of course, important, but it is in providing a lead in changing attitudes from defeatism to optimism, and broadening horizons above and beyond depression and decline, that a body like the SDA can play one of its most important roles."

The pamphlet adds that the Tory Reform Group is convinced that development agencies are needed in the northern regions above and beyond depression and decline, that a body like the SDA can play one of its most important roles.

The Scottish Development Agency: An example to the Nation! (Gayfere House, 22/23 Gayfere Street, London SW1F 3JF; £2).

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Retail group 'bugged rival in espionage campaign'

A businessman's home was bugged as part of a campaign of industrial espionage involving a high street store, a court was told yesterday.

The bugging was allegedly carried out on the orders of Dixons Group, the electrical retailers, against a former employee working for a company owned by Woolworth Holdings.

Luton Crown Court was told that a listening device was attached to a telephone line used by Mr Peter Hopper, a director of Comet, which is owned by Woolworth. The bug was hidden in a biscuit tin and buried in a hedge.

Mr William Coker, for the prosecution, said that in April 1986, Mr Neville Causebrook, Dixons's security adviser, hired Michael Anderson, a former employee of Woolworth, one of Dixons's competitors.

Mr Anderson, a security expert who ran Cornhill Management Consultants, was ordered to produce detailed information about Mr Nigel Whitaker, Woolworth's managing director, and Mr Geoffrey Mulcahy, the company's chief executive.

Mr Coker said: "Whatever you may think of this, most of the actions are within the law and there is no evidence that Mr Whitaker's or Mr Mulcahy's telephones were tapped. This case is concerned with the illegal interception of telephone calls."

A tap was found on a phone belonging to Mr Hopper, who in August 1986 left his job as a purchaser with Dixons to become director of appliance purchasing at Comet. "At Dixons there was concern that their former employee was working for Comet and Anderson was asked to investigate Mr Hopper's activities", Mr Coker said.

Unknown to Mr Hopper, his home at Quarry Cottage, Sandy Lane, Aspley Heath, Bedfordshire, was kept under observation.

On October 28, 1986, a British Telecom engineer, who was investigating a fault on Mr Hopper's line, discovered

a tape recorder and a cassette hidden in a hedge. "It was found that the tape recorder would be automatically switched on by an incoming or outgoing telephone call. All Mr Hopper's calls were being recorded", Mr Coker said.

Mr Hopper, who identified his voice on a tape that had allegedly been recovered, said: "I discussed on my phone prices, the state of the market and the company's business needs."

The police were called and, as a result of their investigations, Terry Rowe, aged 42, an electrical engineer, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Terrence Franklin Rowe, aged 42, his assistant, of Basildon, Essex, were arrested. Police also arrested Mr Anderson, aged 43, of Brick Kiln Stud Farm, Eppington, Warwickshire.

Rowe and Franklin Rowe, who are not related, both pleaded guilty to conspiring to intercept communications. Mr Anderson pleaded not guilty.

Mr Coker said: "In the world of commerce and industry there is a demand for the services of security consultants."

"The prosecution says that in the later part of 1986, Mr Anderson, in order to facilitate inquiries into the lives of certain individuals, arranged for telephones to be tapped."

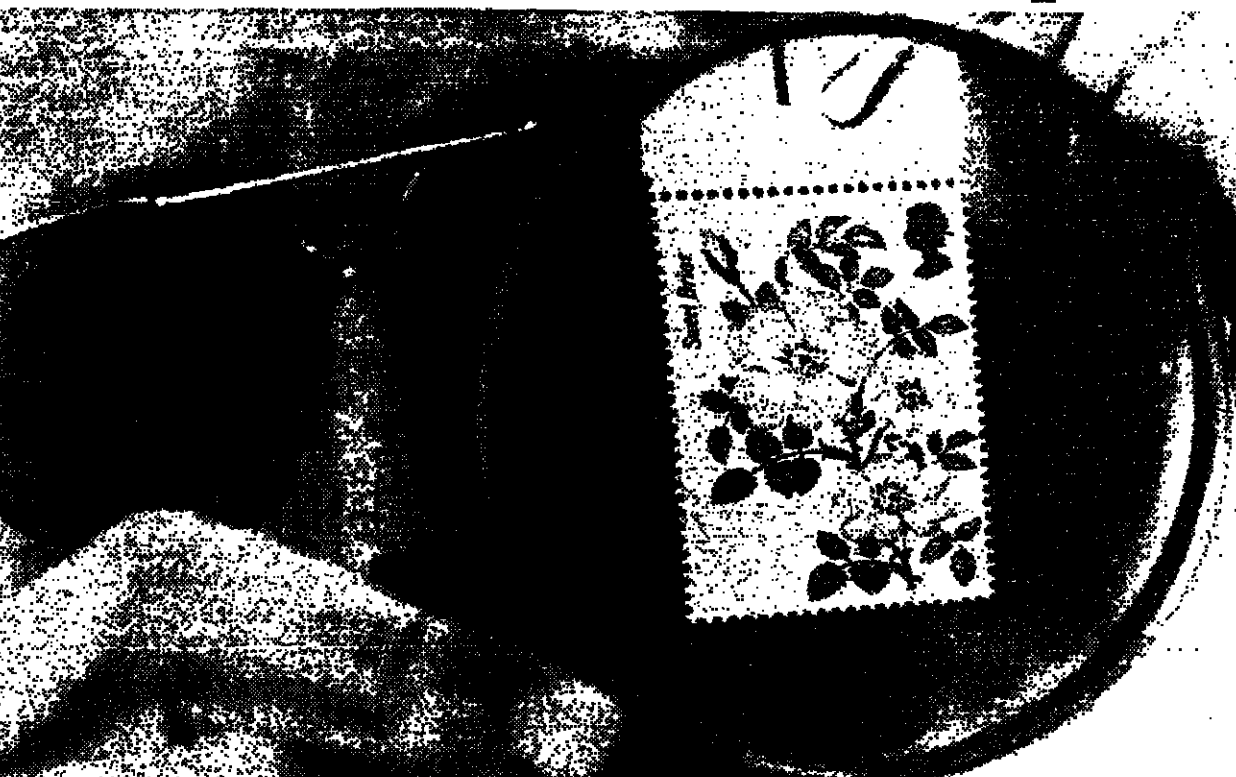
There were two targets for bugging other than Mr Hopper.

Mr Coker said that police following up the discovery of the bug at Aspley Heath found a map of Castle Hill Farm, Tonbridge, Kent, showing the position of telephone poles at the home of Rowe. Mr Coker alleged that Mr Anderson's company was being paid by rival of Castle Hill Farm to investigate it.

He claimed that the third target was a Mr Michael Webb, of Crabble Lane, Dover, who was being investigated by a company with which he was dealing. A radio transmitter was attached to a telephone pole at Mr Webb's home.

The case continues today.

£30,000 stamp without a price



This humble 13p postage stamp (top) is expected to sell for £30,000, because the price was left off when it was printed 12 years ago. It was one of the "Roses" series and depicts a sweet briar.

The stamp will be sold by tender on March 10 by the London dealer B Alan Ltd. "I would say it is the rarest stamp of this sort from the current Elizabethan reign, and it is in mint condition", Mr James Skinner of the firm said. He would not disclose the identity of the vendor, but said it was not the person who bought the stamp over a Post Office counter in 1976.

B Alan is a specialist in misprinted stamps.

Past examples include a 3p 1965 Post Office Tower stamp with the tower missing, and a 1969 QE2 stamp with the liner apparently sinking due to the absence of black colouring. The market price of these, however, is a mere £1,000.

The high value of the briar rose stamp is due to the error originating on the printing cylinder, rather than in the ink. When the Post Office discovered the flaws it summoned the stamps and the cylinder had been destroyed. However, Mr Skinner said, in the Dover area a small batch slipped the net (Photographic Mark Pepper).



Invincible's treasures to be auctioned

SALEROOM
By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Buckets, flacons and the remains of 12 shoes which have spent the last 230 years resting on the bottom of the sea, will be auctioned by Christie's South Kensington on March 10. They are among a consignment of 1,200 items for sale from the wreck of the Invincible.

Anything but true to her indomitable name, from the moment she was built at Rochefort, France in 1744 the Invincible's fortunes were chequered.

She was captured by the English in 1747, and her

revolutionary streamlined design became the prototype for many Royal Navy ships.

Eleven years later she sank off Portsmouth, where she remained until excavations began 10 years ago.

Last month, a group of 218 token items from the wreck were passed to the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust,

seaman's boot, as well as dozens of buttons. Other practical eighteenth century necessities include scrubbing brushes minus a few bristles, pulleys, pieces of rigging, hour glasses and a square wooden plate, from which the term "square meal" originates.

The auction house has put tentative estimates of between £50 and £200 on each of the items, but a spokesman says: "We haven't a clue how much they will sell for." Each lot will be sold complete with a certificate confirming that it has come from the Invincible.

One car in three breaks motorway speed limit

More than one in three drivers exceed the 70 mph speed limit on motorways and more than one in five on dual carriageways, according to the Transport Department's 1987 National Speed Survey, published yesterday.

Mr Peter Bottomley, Under Secretary of State for Transport, condemned the

"reckless minority" who were driving too fast.

The first survey since 1983 showed unchanged speeds on single carriageway roads but the dual carriageway average was up from 58mph in 1983 to 61mph, with 21 per cent of drivers exceeding the limit.

Average motorway speeds were down from 68mph in 1983 to 65mph. Despite this, 15 per cent of motorway drivers were exceeding 80mph.

Mr Bottomley told the Commons yesterday that road accidents causing injury during Christmas and New Year were down by 16 per cent.

Telecom fails to improve its call box record

By Joe Joseph

Public telephone boxes are breaking down more often, in spite of a promise by British Telecom that nine out of 10 would work by the end of next month.

The Office of Telecommunications (OfTel), which regulates the industry, has monitored the quality of Telecom's public call box service for three months as part of a campaign to improve it.

The third monthly survey of call boxes — sponsored by OfTel and Telecom — shows that only 72.4 per cent of those tested worked, compared with 75.8 per cent in the first survey and 71.2 per cent in the second. In London only 70.5 per cent worked.

The figures come at an uncomfortable time for Telecom, which last month lost its call box monopoly when OfTel allowed Mercury, Telecom's rival, to compete.

OfTel has just begun canvassing the public on a new

pricing formula for Telecom, seeking suggestions on how much it should charge and whether the company should be financially penalized if it fails to meet targets for quality.

Telecom said yesterday it remained confident of reaching its target of 90 per cent of call boxes working by the end of March. However, Professor Bryan Carsberg, director general of OfTel, said the results of the latest survey "show that strong action is needed if the target is to be achieved".

He said: "Telecom's senior management told me the deterioration in performance was attributable to staffing difficulties over the Christmas period and that they are undertaking further substantial managerial and organizational changes to improve the situation."

The survey was carried out on 7,421 call boxes between December 12 and January 8.

Claim on vaccine 'only conjecture'

Case histories of children who suffered permanent brain damage after being given a whooping cough vaccine provided "no evidence whatsoever" that the vaccine was responsible, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Dozens of cases reported in medical literature during the past 50 years had generated the hypothesis that a causal link might exist but by definition that hypothesis was mere "supposition or conjecture", Mr Edward Machin, QC, counsel for The Wellcome Foundation, manufacturers of the drug, told the court.

It was "fundamentally wrong" to suggest that the cases provided *prima facie* evidence of a link when they could not indicate whether brain damage occurred more frequently in vaccinated than in unvaccinated children.

"However many cases there are, of themselves they cannot tell us whether more are occurring than one would expect by chance."

Mr Machin was making his

closing speech in the first part of a test case to decide whether the vaccine causes brain damage. The parents of about 200 brain-damaged children will be affected by the ruling.

The case is being brought by Maureen and Harold Loveday, of Hackney, north-east London. They are suing Dr George Renton, who administered the pertussis vaccine to their daughter Susan, now aged 17, when she was a baby.

The Wellcome Foundation has joined the action as a defendant to argue the case on causality but there are no allegations of negligence against the company.

Mr Stanley Brodie, QC, for the Lovedays, will argue that a series of cases, in which there was a close temporal relationship between the administration of the vaccine and the onset of neurological symptoms, shows, on the balance of probabilities, that the vaccine can cause brain damage.

Closing speeches by counsel are expected to last two or three weeks. The case continues today.

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Brighton bomber is refused appeal over convictions

Patrick Magee, the Brighton bomber, was yesterday refused leave to appeal against his convictions.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, sitting with two other judges, rejected Magee's claim that publicity surrounding the bombing at the Conservative Party conference in 1984 deprived him of a fair trial.

Magee, aged 36, was given eight life sentences in 1986 for planting the bomb in the Grand Hotel, Brighton, which killed five people, and for plotting with others to cause explosions in 1985 in the London area and coastal resorts.

One of his fellow conspirators in the 1985 plot, Martina Anderson, aged 26, a former beauty queen, failed yesterday in her appeal against conviction in a hearing before Lord Lane, sitting with Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Drake.

Three others, Gerard McDonnell, aged 37, Ella O'Dwyer, aged 28, and Peter John Sherry, aged 30, failed to persuade the court to give them leave to appeal against their convictions for the conspiracy.

Yesterday's hearing was held at the Central Criminal Court instead of the High Court for security reasons. Everyone entering Court 2 was searched and asked for identification.

It began with counsel for Anderson applying for leave to appeal on her behalf.

After hearing argument the judges granted the appeal which went ahead. Anderson was the only one of the five in court and represented by counsel.

When Lord Lane began giving judgement the court was given details of the grounds of appeal put forward by Magee and the four others.

Magee, who was convicted of what was described as "one of the worst acts of terrorism in this country", claimed the publicity surrounding the Grand Hotel bombing deprived him of a fair trial.

Lord Lane said it was inevitable in a case such as that where there had been a mass murder and an attempt to kill as many members of the Cabinet as possible that there was going to be a great deal of publicity.

Some of that may be potentially prejudicial to defendants but that, in itself, was not a reason for not bringing defendants to trial, he said.

If it were, Lord Lane said, the more heinous the crime, the less likely it would be that offenders would be brought to justice.

The question the court had to consider was whether the defendants had a fair trial or were deprived of that chance by prejudicial media reporting.

Lord Lane, referring to articles at the time, said they did little more than state what was the prosecution case. It was fanciful to suggest that they could have affected the jury.

He said that the *Daily*

Mirror had published a stupid and inaccurate report better left unprinted. It referred to the demeanour and behaviour of the defendants at their trial.

However that did not come anywhere near within striking distance of causing any unfairness or causing any juror to act adversely or unfairly.

Anderson, in her appeal, submitted that the judge should not have allowed cross-examination about her being "wanted" by police in Northern Ireland.

Mr Michael Mansfield, for Anderson, said that Anderson had not denied having republican sympathies.

She had admitted being part of an illegal conspiracy — but not one to plant bombs.

Lord Lane said it would be monstrous if a defendant could avoid any questions being put to them to show the evidence they were giving was not correct.

McDonnell and Sherry also claimed that the trial judge was wrong in not allowing potential jurors to be asked if they were active members of the Conservative Party.

Lord Lane said it was "laughable" to suggest that members of the Conservative Party would be likely to convict a defendant in those circumstances when a member of another party "would or might not".

It was an "insult to the intelligence of jurors", he added.

Mr Justice Boreham, the trial judge, was right not to order separate trials.

Benefits system 'collapsed'

The system used by the Department of Health and Social Security for processing supplementary benefit claims in many areas of London has "virtually collapsed", it was claimed in the High Court yesterday.

The claim was made as a coalition of London boroughs and advice and pressure groups challenged alleged government mis-handling of the supplementary benefit system.

A report prepared by the National Association of Citizen Advice Bureaux, one of the coalition members, claimed that three quarters of DHSS offices in London were failing "very frequently" to process claims within the statutory 14 days.

Mr Richard Drabble, for the coalition, said it was an issue of great importance, not only

affecting supplementary benefit claims but other social security payments.

The legal action is aimed at establishing the proper interpretation of the Social Security Act 1975, which imposes a duty to process claims within 14 days or as soon as is reasonably practical.

The coalition claims that the interpretation put on the Act by Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, has led to some claims taking up to two months to be processed.

The judge, Mr Justice Schiemann, was told that Mr Moore does not accept that the system has broken down. He claims there has been a "very great improvement" since 1986.

The hearing continues today.

Dry walls flooding into fashion



Rebuilding the walls surrounding his cottage near Balmacellan in Dumfries and Galloway, Mr Richard Tufnell decided there was a living to be made out of the ancient art of dry stone walling. So the former Berkshire estate agent began looking around for contracts. His experience grew and he is now putting the

finishing touches to a 73-yard stretch of wall at the Glasgow Garden Festival, which opens later this year. The high point of the display, which publicizes the Dumfries and Galloway region, is a dry stone arch, which is difficult to achieve and possibly the finest example in the world. Next month Mr Tufnell, who runs

his own stone walling business, leaves for the foothills of the Himalayas to teach local headmen the art of building enclosures without water. Later, he hopes to go to America and Yugoslavia to assist with projects there.

(Photograph: Mike Young.)

Teenager freed after murderer confesses

A man charged with murdering two elderly women walked free yesterday after another man admitted the killings.

Mr David Blythe, aged 18, had confessed to police that he battered to death Susan Egerton, aged 92, and her sister Florence, aged 81. He withdrew the confession and yesterday at Manchester Crown Court Mr Justice Hodgson formally directed he should be found not guilty.

The court was told there was no evidence to link Mr Blythe, who has been in custody 11 months, with the murders, at the sisters' home in Shaw, Oldham, Greater Manchester.

Later, Mr Peter Lakin, the solicitor of Mr Blythe's parents, said they were considering suing the police. He said Mr Blythe, when arrested last March, was denied the presence of a solicitor for "an appreciable period of time".

After Mr Blythe was freed, Nicholas Wentworth entered the dock and was accused of the murders. He admitted them and the rape and buggery of a woman taxi driver.

Wentworth, aged 20, of Rivington Drive, Shaw, was given four life sentences.

Law Society seeks action

Women being forced out, says report

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society says that radical steps must be taken to counter an "alarming" catalogue of difficulties forcing women solicitors out of the profession.

There is "serious cause for concern" over the large female drop-out rate, a Law Society working party says in a report published yesterday.

"The picture is one where more and more women are coming into the profession and where a significant and alarming number are temporarily retiring from it after a few years."

The report, the first to look at the career prospects of women solicitors, says women progress very slowly to partnership compared with men — the main "blockage" in their career path — and more remain as assistant solicitors.

Of all solicitors admitted in 1977, 63 per cent of men are now partners but only 34 per cent of women, and while only 11 per cent of men from that year are still assistants, 32 per cent of women are.

Of all women admitted in the past 10 years, 25 per cent no longer have practising certificates. The figure for men is 14 per cent. Only 56 per cent of women admitted in 1977 still work full-time.

"Women have proportionately fewer practising certificates than men, reach partnership at a much slower rate than men, work part-time far more than men and retire altogether from the profession in greater numbers", the report says.

The working party, chaired by Mrs Linda Packard, urges a package of measures to help to iron out the problems women face.

The profession should look at the advantages of different kinds of part-time work when vacancies arise, including part-time partnerships, it says.

Although that "upsets the traditional view of a partner being full-time and working all the necessary hours to ensure the profits of the firm", there is no reason why a partnership deed cannot be drafted so profits reflect time spent in the firm's work, the report says.

The profession should also offer career-break schemes, under which women are kept in touch with their work on a small retainer, and firms should advertise these.

The Law Society, which the report notes still only has three women on its 70-strong council, should sponsor more refresher and "returner" courses.

It should also press for

legislation enabling it to charge a reduced practising certificate fee to women away from work looking after children and improve its procedures for women returning to the profession so that they are not treated like solicitors with a disciplinary record.

At present, women re-applying for practising certificates have to obtain signatures from other solicitors declaring them "fit" to work, or they may have their application referred to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau.

The report also recommends tax relief on child care expenses and says sexual discrimination should be made a specific disciplinary offence.

Equal in the Law: report of the working party on women's careers from the Law Society (113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL, £5).

Head in court

Carmel College, a Jewish public school near Wallingford, Oxfordshire, its former headmaster, and the school treasurer faced six charges at Didcot Magistrates' Court, Oxfordshire, yesterday of dishonest use of covenant and charity vouchers to pay fees.

Death charges

Colin Munn, aged 27, was remanded in custody until February 27 by Luton magistrates yesterday charged with murdering Matthew Knight, aged six, and his brother Ryan, aged four, and the attempted murder of Mrs Jenny Knight at their home in Luton.

Jet in alert

Gatwick airport was placed on alert yesterday after a Continental Airlines Boeing 747 with 445 people on board and bound for Miami developed engine trouble after take-off. It ditched fuel and landed back at Gatwick 80 minutes later.

All those in favour of keeping the dog licence say 'Aye.'



Last month, 286 MPs voted to abolish the dog licence. But a great many more people voted to keep it.

The National Farmers' Union opted for it as a way of preventing strays destroying over 10,000 head of livestock each year.

229 MPs on both sides of the House voted for it to curb the threat stray dogs present to public health and road safety

and to improve animal welfare.

The British Veterinary Association supported it to end the destruction of 80,000 unwanted dogs every year.

Over 10,000 members of the public backed the RSPCA's and Scottish SPCA's call for a reformed licensing system as a humane way of controlling the stray dog problem.

They all voted to keep the dog licence as the first step

towards a responsible system of registration and control.

The Local Government Bill, on the other hand, offers no alternative to the dog licence at all.

For the full story ring 0403 64181 or write to RSPCA, FREEPOST, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex. RH12 1ZA.

 NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION OF SCOTLAND

 NFU
Representing Farmers and Growers

 British Veterinary Association

 SCOTTISH SPCA

 RSPCA

سكيا من الامم

WORLD ROUNDUP

Army coup fear in Ecuador poll

Quito — Señor Abdala Bucaram, who does not conceal his admiration for Hitler, has thrown Ecuador's presidential election into doubt by reaching the final run-off to succeed President Febres. With more than half of the five million votes from the first round counted, Señor Bucaram was in second place with 15.3 per cent and destined to contest the presidency with Señor Rodrigo Borja, who led with 20.4 per cent of the vote (Geoffrey Matthews writes).

The future of the country's democracy is under threat because Señor Bucaram has enemies in the military who have let it be known that they might intervene if he were to reach the second round of voting on May 8. Most Ecuadorians doubt the armed forces would allow him to become president, even if they permit the run-off to take place.

Democrats of both left and right regard Señor Bucaram as a dangerous rabble-rouser. If the military is to be persuaded not to intervene, Señor Borja will have to convince them he can forge enough pacts with other parties to ensure victory.

Kaunda Threat by on attack accuser

Lusaka (Reuters) — President Kaunda of Zambia told eight Commonwealth foreign ministers here yesterday that African states required not preaching from Western opponents of sanctions on the need to talk to South Africa.

He dismissed the anti-sanctions argument put forward by Mrs Thatcher, the leading Commonwealth opponent of sanctions against the Pretoria Government, but did not attack her by name. He referred to "right-wing forces" in Britain who showed "terrifying ignorance" of the situation, and the "lobby that keeps preaching to us that we must talk to the racists".

Vienna (AP) — An associate of the Yugoslav historian who reportedly found a document which purports to prove Dr Kurt Waldheim guilty of war crimes, yesterday quoted him as saying that he would sue the Austrian President.

A Yugoslav journalist, Danko Vasovic, quoted Mr Dusan Plenca as saying: "I have been forced to sue Kurt Waldheim and his spokesman for insult and slander because they claimed the telegram published in Der Spiegel was forged." He said that Mr Plenca had the original, but would not co-operate with a commission of historians and would produce it only in court.

Cubans' Angola date

Washington (Reuters) — Angola has for the first time agreed that Cuban troops must leave its territory as part of a regional peace settlement, the US State Department said yesterday. Mr Charles Redman, a department spokesman, said that Cuban officials, including a member of the Havana Politburo, had endorsed the Angolan stance, which was conveyed last week to a top-level US delegation in Luanda.

He said: "The Angolan delegation has for the first time affirmed its acceptance of the necessity of the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola in the context of a settlement."

Bhopal Shultz for challenge Moscow

Jabalpur (Reuters) — Union Carbide yesterday challenged an Indian court order to pay \$152 million in interim compensation to victims of the Bhopal gas leak, the world's worst industrial disaster.

A lawyer for Union Carbide told the High Court in Madhya Pradesh that the Indian Government should give interim relief to victims while its suit against the company is being heard. The Government is suing Union Carbide for \$1.8 billion.

Washington (Reuters) — The Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, will hold preliminary talks in Moscow later this month on a prospective fourth summit between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev.

The White House said that he would meet the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, on February 22 and 23 "to give preliminary consideration to a summit, along with discussion of other bilateral and regional issues".

Bhutto purges the left

Karachi — Miss Benazir Bhutto, right, has emerged successful from a purge of left-wing elements in her opposition Pakistan People's Party, though fears remain of a split in Punjab, where all main provincial branch office-bearers have resigned (Zahid Hussain writes). She also forced the resignations of 12 members of the Punjab executive, including five from the left wing, after criticism of her party's poor showing in local elections.



Rewriting Russia's history

Bukharin nearer to final reprieve

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin, one of the most controversial of the original Soviet revolutionary leaders executed by Stalin, came significantly closer to rehabilitation at the weekend with the publication in the main Communist Party theoretical journal of a speech he delivered in April, 1929.

In the address, seen as a clear challenge to Stalin, Bukharin argued strongly against the drive towards rapid industrialization and the forced collectivization of Soviet agriculture then being launched by the dictator and still officially regarded here as essentially correct.

The publication of the speech in the bimonthly journal *Kommunist*, exactly 50 years after Bukharin's execution as an "enemy of the people", was seen as a clear indication that his name may soon be cleared formally by the Kremlin authorities. Soviet intellectuals have noted that 1988 is also the centenary of his birth.

Bukharin, one of the youngest and most brilliant of the original Bolshevik leaders and a leading theoretician, was executed in 1938 after a show trial. But in recent months some of his ideas have begun to re-emerge in the reform programme gathers momentum and liberals are anxious that the Soviet Supreme Court should overturn the verdict of half a century ago.

The speech published on Sunday was first delivered at a meeting to mark the fifth anniversary of Lenin's death and reported in *Pravda* under the heading "Lenin's Political Testament". A few months

later Bukharin — now seen by members of the intelligentsia as the inspiration for many current reforms — was sacked by Stalin from the Politburo.

In the speech Bukharin, former editor of *Pravda* and head of the Communist Party (third international), quoted Lenin as calling for "peaceful organization" rather than political struggle. He also appealed for the continuation of the co-operative farm policy begun under Lenin.

"The transfer... to a new order is simpler, easier, and more sustainable for the peasantry if the people approach Socialism through the co-operative system, guided by their own advantage," Bukharin stated.

His views were studiously ignored by Stalin and his works were banned in the Soviet Union from the mid-1930s until last November, when a weekly magazine published his own last testament in a version committed to memory by his wife, Anna.

Western experts who studied the text of the speech at the weekend said there were strong echoes of its views in the current reform drive, under which co-operative ventures have been encouraged and both industry and agriculture set on a course of self-financing along lines similar to Lenin's New Economic Policy of 1921-1928.

Israeli settlers caught up in West Bank protests

Two Palestinians killed in clashes

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Two Palestinians were killed and three others wounded yesterday when Israelis, caught up in one of dozens of violent demonstrations sweeping the West Bank, fired on stone-throwing youths.

The incident, which involved a car carrying Israeli settlers, occurred as leaders of the settlers were petitioning Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, for tougher measures to quell the disturbances. On Sunday evening one settler had been severely burnt when a petrol bomb hit his car as he drove through El-Bireh, north of Jerusalem.

The settlers had already been asked by Major-General Amram Mitzne, the Commander of Israeli forces on the West Bank, not to take the law into their own hands after the petrol-bombing.

Yesterday's shooting took place near the village of Anabta, between Nablus and Tulkarm, where demonstrators had blocked the main

road with stones and burning tyres. Three Israeli cars were stopped by it including an army vehicle, a police car and one driven by civilian settlers.

The drivers got out and began firing, killing two and wounding one. Since the civilian was armed with an identical M 16 rifle to the ones being used by the soldiers it was still not clear last night who actually fired the bullets which killed Mourad al-Hamdala,

aged 17, and Mouayyad al-Shaar, aged 21.

Shortly afterwards a bus carrying troops arrived and the soldiers got out to be met with a hail of stones from the demonstrators. After failing to disperse the crowd with tear gas and rubber bullets they opened fire with live ammunition and two more were wounded, one critically. Two of the three wounded were young women.

Elsewhere troops and police were once more resorting to the use of live ammunition to break up threatening disturbances. Palestinian sources said that by mid-afternoon, when torrential rain effectively restored quiet, there had been 25 people reported wounded by live ammunition or rubber bullets.

Throughout the day curfew was maintained on Nablus, the largest town in the West

Bank, and on its surrounding refugee camps. None of the 200,000 people in this closed military area was allowed on the streets and troops and police combed it looking for activists who had led massive demonstrations in the town centre on Sunday. There were many arrests, but even so a demonstration was reported in the centre of the town.

The firm clampdown on Nablus occurred after a day in

which gangs of Palestinian youngsters virtually took over the heart of the town, hoisting Palestinian flags from the mosques and using loudspeakers in the minarets to relay songs and messages.

The defiant spirit in the town appeared to have spread out into the surrounding countryside, with a tiny Palestinian flag hung high and inaccessibly on a minaret in one village and burning tyres and rock roadblocks springing up everywhere. The demonstrations were far too widespread for the beleaguered Israeli forces to control effectively.

In Ramallah, where the Israeli Army has been trying for a month to end a commercial strike, troops were at work again yesterday with crowbars prising open metal shutters and snapping padlocks.

Shopkeepers have formed their own self-protection committees. Padlocks are replaced free of charge, no customers are served except at certain pre-arranged hours.

Non-Orthodox converts win full Jewish status

Jerusalem — Non-Orthodox converts to Judaism appear at last to have won a long battle to be recognized officially as Jews by the Israeli Interior Ministry (Our Own Correspondent writes).

The director of the ministry's population registries, Mr Yehoshua Kahana, has told the High Court he will register three converts within a fortnight, establishing a precedent for many others who have been waiting to be registered, in some cases for years.

The High Court decided last year in favour of Miss Shoshana Miller, an American converted by a Reform movement rabbi, who had been refused registration as a Jew by the ministry. Rather than accept the decision of the court, the minister, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, resigned.

Three converts who were told their registration was being held up because there were doubts about the validity of their conversions then app-

peared to the High Court, citing Miss Miller's case.

The Attorney-General, Mr Yosef Harish, said last Friday that he had no objection to the registration, and the Interior Ministry — after issuing a statement saying it had "raised doubts" about non-Orthodox converts — agreed to complete the necessary formalities within a fortnight.

There remains, however, a petition from the Shas religious party in the Knesset opposing this move, which is

supported by the ministry. The High Court has asked for a comment on the petition within 60 days, meaning there is still a legal possibility of the issue being changed.

● GENEVA: The Soviet Union allowed 658 Jews to leave in January against 98 for the same month a year ago, the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration said yesterday (Reuters reports). The figure was down slightly on last December, when 868 Soviet Jews emigrated.

Anglo-German relations

Pre-summit attempt to break EEC deadlock

From Richard Owen, Brussels

On the eve of today's meeting in London between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, West German officials sought to repair Anglo-German relations at the final meeting of EEC foreign ministers before next week's EEC summit.

Sources close to Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, and current president of the Council of Ministers, strongly denied that Bonn was trying to "isolate" Britain over farm reforms.

Herr Genscher yesterday held bilateral talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in an attempt to break the Anglo-German deadlock ahead of today's Kohl-Thatcher encounter.

But diplomats said Sir Geoffrey had stood firm over Britain's insistence that proposed farm spending curbs

must be far tougher than those put forward by Bonn.

The EEC foreign ministers were attending yesterday the first day of a two-day "conclave" intended to set the summit agenda. But with Bonn and London still far apart, they agreed to put off discussion of thornier agricultural reform issues until today. These include proposed "stabilizers" for controlling output in cereals and other sectors to reduce food mountains and slash the bloated farm budget, which is crippling EEC finances.

Britain wants strict "stabilizers" with sharp price penalties for farmers who over-produce. But this solution is resisted by Bonn, which seeks to avoid measures likely to damage the livelihoods of its small farmers.

Herr Genscher impressed upon Sir Geoffrey that the

package of reforms taking shape had the backing of 10 nations of the 12, and that only Britain and The Netherlands were holding up a deal at the summit.

The foreign ministers did move closer to agreement on a clause in the proposed package permitting an increase in farm spending in "exceptional circumstances".

But Sir Geoffrey insisted this could only refer to precisely defined fluctuations in the rate of the dollar against the European Currency Unit (ECU), and must not be used as a vaguely-worded loophole.

Sir Geoffrey said the ceiling for farm spending this year should be set at £19 billion — the current level — rather than the figure of nearly £21 billion proposed by the European Commission.

Leading article, page 13

Reagan stands by Meese

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan is insisting that he will not ask for the resignation of Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General, who is under investigation for his role in apparently trying to get US government support for a \$1 billion pipeline project in Iraq.

The inquiry is being conducted by Mr James McKay, the special prosecutor, who has warned White House officials that his inquiries have become "very serious" and that he expects to complete his case within a few weeks.

Mr Howard Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, said that asking for Mr Meese's resignation would be

like "pitching people to the lions without proof". But there is a widespread sentiment among senior officials that he is an embarrassment and should go.

The investigation centres on a 1985 memorandum in which Mr Bob Wallach, a close friend of Mr Meese, allegedly told the Attorney-General that the pipeline project would require payments to be made to the Israeli Labour Party to ensure that Israel would not attack the pipeline.

Mr Wallach had a financial interest in getting the project off the ground and it appears that Mr Meese pushed hard

for US government support, although in the end the project was abandoned.

Mr Meese has been a controversial figure throughout the Reagan presidency. He was subjected to a six-month probe by a special prosecutor more than three years ago into allegations that he helped secure high-paying government jobs for people who arranged loans for him. The prosecutor said he found no basis for bringing charges.

In the past year a special prosecutor has been looking at Mr Meese's connections with the scandal-ridden Wedtech Corporation, the failed defence contractor.

Rajiv balancing act



Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, appearing only mildly amused as he sports a tribal hat presented to him yesterday during a folk dancing festival in the north-east Assam state. His visit came amid the start of a huge security operation on the eve of today's assembly elections in

the nearby state of Tripura, where tribal insurgents last month massacred 108 people (AFP reports from Delhi).

The insurgents have called a boycott of the poll and enforced a campaign of terror, with 72 people reported killed over the weekend despite the presence of 36,000 troops.

Visit by Prince stirs up trouble

From Our Correspondent Sydney

The Prince and Princess of Wales found themselves embroiled in political controversy yesterday after visiting Sydney's Darling Harbour, where derelict wharfs and warehouses are being transformed into one of the most spectacular city-centre business and leisure complexes.

Darling Harbour, costing £750 million, should have been opened by the royal couple as part of Australia's bicentenary celebrations. But strikes, corrupt deals, and accusations that the project is ill-conceived have put construction way behind schedule.

It has been described as "an enduring ugly monument to political haste".

Nevertheless, the Premier of New South Wales, Mr Barrie Unsworth, who must hold an election soon, insisted that the Prince and the Princess should visit the unfinished complex despite the complaints of political opponents that he was using the royal visit to win votes.

Mr Unsworth is already under fire for spending millions of pounds of taxpayers' money in a series of television commercials to boost his party's image. He had dismissed all the criticism, but significantly never in the history of Australian politics has a state Premier lost his seat after a royal visit.

Today the Prince and Princess met some of the 20,000 construction workers at the complex, which will include a maritime museum, a monorail network, an exhibition convention, shopping centres, and an imported Chinese garden.

The Princess of Wales also met someone dressed up and answering to the name of "Kev Koala Bear". "You look so cute," she said, confronted by the large, grey-haired marsupial. "I would give you a hug if I could, but I don't want to crease my dress."

Instead, Kev the Koala handed her a boomerang, explaining: "This is a gift to you to slap your two boys on the bottom if they misbehave."

The Princess burst out laughing. "I never have to do that sort of thing. But I will give it to them as a present."

Later the Prince flew by helicopter to the ranch of Mr Kerry Packer, the Australian businessman, for a polo match. He scored a hat-trick against a team which included Mr Sinclair Hill, the Australian cattle baron who taught him to play polo, and Mr Alex Makim, the Duchess of York's Australian brother-in-law.

Greece and Turkey quick to establish new ties

From Mario Modiano Davies

Greece and Turkey are moving briskly to implement the "spirit of Davos" born out of their historic decision to allow time for their relations to improve before attempts are made to solve problems between the two countries.

After a cordial breakfast given by Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, in honour of his Greek colleague, Mr Andreas Papandreu, yesterday the two men parted. "See you in Athens," Mr Papandreu told his host as they shook hands. "I'll be there," Mr Ozal replied cheerfully.

This exchange would have been hard to imagine even a

week ago. It had taken the two men just over five hours of discussions to give Greek-Turkish relations a new direction.

Mr Ozal's breakfast gave Greek and Turkish businessmen and industrialists here to attend the World Economic Forum, a chance to discuss the outlook for joint ventures. A visit by Turkish bankers and businessmen to Athens has been arranged for April.

Mr Theodore Papalexopoulos, president of the Federation of Greek Industry, said that, once the politicians gave the green light, businessmen on both sides were all set to ride "this wave of euphoria".

Mr Ozal said that he believed that the only way to

break the ice between Greece and Turkey was by abandoning the rigid clichés and old prejudices and by developing broad contacts and mutual interests.

Turkey had applied this formula successfully in the past eight years with Iran, Iraq, and now with Syria, he said. "Once we increase the number of people on both sides who have a vested interest in preserving good relations problems tend to disappear."

Mr Ozal agreed with Mr Papandreu's view that "outside powers" were trying to impose control on Greece and Turkey by taking advantage of their problems. "I do not blame them for trying," he

said, "but we should not fall into their trap."

Significantly, Mr Papandreu was telling reporters at the same time that, if Greece and Turkey improved their relations, they would be able to make decisions on their own, rather than under the tutelage of others.

Mr Ozal had not raised with Mr Papandreu the question of Greece's objections to Turkey's efforts for closer links with the European Community and eventual full membership. He said: "If our agreement with Greece works out I do not expect Greece to be the main obstacle to our admission."

Because of an overloaded travel schedule he could not

plan his visit to Athens before late April or May. This would be the first visit by a Turkish Prime Minister to Greece in 36 years. However, his next meeting with Mr Papandreu will be at the Nato summit early next month.

He hoped that by then the two high-level Greek-Turkish committees that they had agreed to set up to define the problem areas and to explore possibilities for economic and cultural co-operation would have been formed.

"There has been an accumulation of problems between the two countries over the past 35 years. We shall need much hard work, good faith, and determination to succeed," he said.

Leading article, page 13

Soviet alcoholics drying out the American way

From Christopher Walker Moscow

The first Soviet chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous, the self-help organization previously banned from the Soviet Union because of the religious undertones of its message, has been established in Moscow as a bizarre by-product of the recent détente between the superpowers.

The Rev J.W. Canty, the flamboyant 41-year-old New York minister who secured permission to establish the group, which meets here twice a week and consists entirely of Soviet citizens, told *The Times*: "Because of Mr Gorbachev's anti-alcohol drive, the Kremlin now appears to have accepted that our methods can help persuading Soviet drinkers to say 'nye'."

The founder of the Soviet-US Joint Conference on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction cuts a curious figure as he arrives at meetings of the group, known as "Moscow Beginners", in his ankle-length fur coat

and winged collar. But his work has already won him a nomination for the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize.

"Basically, there is no difference between a Soviet drunk and an American one, they both have the same problems," the American clergyman explained. "What we had to convince the authorities of was that we were not a religious organization, that people who feel the need for AA's help come out of bars, not out of churches."

The Moscow chapter, which preserves the strict anonymity of its members whose founder is known simply as Volodya, is now trying to spawn other self-help groups using literature in Russian which maintains the reference to God used in AA's English-language pamphlets.

"The only concession that we have made is that our practice of ending meetings with a traditional prayer to God has been replaced instead with a moment of silence, because otherwise the conflict with the country's official atheist ideology would be too

great," Mr Canty told *The Times*.

He makes no secret of the formidable task which he faces in the Soviet Union where the registered total of 4.5 million alcoholics is considered to underestimate the real total by up to five times. The main Western criticism of Mr Gorbachev's anti-alcohol drive is that it places too little emphasis on rehabilitation.

A recent investigation by *Pravda* showed that Soviet alcoholics sent to special treatment clinics, known in Russian as LTPs (Prevention by Medication and Labour) are treated like criminals, with hard labour, punishment cells and handcuffs.

A correspondent sent to one of the LTPs described conditions as harsh, with patients forced to work seven days a week and food parcels confiscated by the guards. "We live behind barbed wire. We are taken to work in convoys. Absence is regarded like escape from prison camp and subject to criminal punishment. We are even deprived of our

constitutional rights," one inmate told the Communist Party newspaper.

Mr Canty, who has become a regular visitor to Moscow, has already taken four Soviet medical experts on a hair-raising tour of some of New York's seamiest meeting-places for drunks and drug addicts, as well as AA meetings in Harlem in an effort to sell the concept of an organization that now boasts 10 million members worldwide.

Yesterday he scored a minor coup when Soviet state television agreed to screen next summer a dubbed version of an American anti-drug drama, *The Life of the Party*, and to allow its star, Carol Burnett, to address Soviet viewers about her experiences growing up in an alcoholic family.

The clergyman said that the idea of founding AA in the Soviet Union began when a number of desperate alcoholics from Moscow wrote to Alcoholics Anonymous's New York headquarters seeking advice. He has also held discussions with the Soviet

Ministry of Culture to consider commissioning the Bolshoi Ballet to perform a new work about the consequences of alcoholism.

"The scars of the Cold War go so deep that we are constantly operating against a whole set of fears and misunderstandings. Before Gorbachev, none of this could have happened," he explained. "Our hope is to provide mutual inspiration for Soviet and American citizens who are battling with addiction."

Western diplomats, who have been impressed by the New York minister's determination to persevere in the face of enormous odds, say that he faces what one describes as "a Catch-22 situation" which will have to be overcome before AA takes off here on a large scale.

"To have a real effect in the Soviet Union, AA will have to secure official backing for its meetings, not just official tolerance," the diplomat explained. "But the trouble is, once it is known to be connected with officialdom, most Soviet alcoholics will shy away from it."

Spirit of glasnost fails to bridge East Germany's generation gap

Regime's distrust of the young sparks Berlin clampdown

From Richard Bassett, East Berlin

Behind the bullet-riddled wartime facade of Lichtenberg, East Berlin's youth is taking cover. In this greyest of East Berlin's prewar suburbs, the plainclothes policeman is, after a long absence, visibly back on the beat.

Uniformed police are also visible here while the Lichtenberg Court continued yesterday the trial of young East Germans who attempted to take part unofficially in a Communist Party-organized demonstration on January 17 commemorating the murder of the founders of the German Communist Party, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.

Yesterday three of the 21 arrested — Andreas Kalk, aged 19, Bert Schlegel, aged 21, and Till Boettcher, aged 17 — were sentenced to six months' imprisonment, even though they were apprehended only on the way to the demonstration.

Last Thursday the same court also sentenced Frau Vera Wollenberger, a Lutheran Church activist, to six months' imprisonment. These trials have highlighted the increasingly fragile relationship between state and youth in East Berlin.

Young members of church, peace or environment groups in East Berlin are clearly seen by the East German authori-

ties as a threat to the city's political stability.

The harsh sentences passed on these young East Berliners underlines the fear that East Germany's youth is slowly moving out of the state's control. More than 40 per cent of East Berlin's population was born after 1961. These young people have long found refuge from the traditional restraints of communism in watching West German television and joining peace or

The Hague (Reuters) — Demonstrators from Dutch church groups piled cardboard boxes on the gateway of the East German Embassy here yesterday, saying they were making a replica of the Berlin Wall in protest at the arrest of dissidents in East Germany. About 60 people took part.

religious organizations. The three East Germans sentenced yesterday were all members of the religious environmental organization known here as the "Environmental Library".

Until fairly recently, young East Germans had been optimistic because of *glasnost*. The book of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, on *perestroika* has already sold out in East Berlin, but the ageing leadership in the Polit-

buro here offers little hope for the young that *glasnost* will sweep their country swiftly.

The recent crackdown on dissidents and other young East Germans is an unpleasant reminder that, however mildly enthusiastic East Germany's veteran leader, Herr Erich Honecker, might be about *glasnost*, most of his colleagues in the Politburo are anxious to remain firmly on the traditional paths of pre-Gorbachev communism.

Nowhere has this been better expressed in recent days than in the official East German press, which unleashed a torrent of criticism against West Germany.

For the first time in recent years, the Soviet bloc's three traditional areas of criticism of West Germany — unemployment, drug abuse and the exclusion of left-wing Germans from certain jobs, the so-called *Berufssperre* — were all wheeled out.

This was, in part, the result of West German press criticism over the East German trials. Moreover, many West German artists and musicians had cancelled engagements in East Germany after the trials were announced.

Above all, however, the East German press was expressing the country's para-



Grim-faced members of East Germany's peace movement listening outside the Lichtenberg courthouse yesterday to the harsh prison sentences passed on young East Berliners for illegally trying to join an official party demonstration.

noia. In a time of sweeping uncertainty in Eastern Europe, the most artificial Communist state is also the most vulnerable.

Ironically, many of those young East Berliners who took part in the disturbances on January 17 have no desire to leave East Germany. They are "Berliners" and are particularly angered at East Germany's recent reaction in the

wake of their activities to forcibly expel "trouble-makers" on their lists to West Germany.

Among the punks and "alternative" youngsters of the Lichtenberg suburb, the attitude is one of frustration with those in power rather than any universal condemnation of communism.

"We want to be understood. We are Berliners, neither West

nor East. We want *glasnost*" — these are all sentiments frequently heard in the darkly-lit bars. But now young punks and policemen must share the same streets, the same bars as the gap between one Berlin generation and the next one widens, causing mistrust and tension.

The youth associations, whether religious or environmental, will most likely re-

spond to the recent crackdown by becoming more radical. Despite pleas for calm by older leaders of these groups, young activists are unlikely to be inhibited from holding further demonstrations of solidarity with their imprisoned fellows.

At the weekend, more than 2,000 East Berliners attended a Mass appealing for the release of the students still under arrest.

Indians arrest Tamil rebels

Colombo (Reuters) — Indian troops detained 54 Tamil guerrillas yesterday, bringing the total of arrests during a massive three-day crackdown on Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula to 188.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also seized in a sweep across the Vadamachchi region. One group of rebels set off a landmine near Trincomalee under a Sri Lankan Army patrol, injuring 13 soldiers.

The eastern towns of Batticaloa, Kalumbura and Sambarura were shut down by a one-day strike called by the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students to protest against the detention of four of its leaders.

Four killed by market bomb

Islamabad — At least four people were killed, three of them Afghan nationals, and 23 hurt when a bomb blew up in a crate of tomatoes at a Peshawar market yesterday (Hasan Akhtar writes).

The blast was the fifth this year in the North West Frontier Province's capital. The victims are believed to be all Afghan refugees.

Yugoslav free

Ndjamena (Reuters) — Chad has freed Rade Zelenovic, aged 58, a Yugoslav mechanic jailed in Ndjamena for five months after being seized last September by Chadian forces during a lightning attack on the Maaten as-Sarra air base in southern Libya.

Porn ring

Nice (Reuters) — French police arrested M Jean-Claude Canavo, a retired headmaster aged 57, and said they had uncovered a nationwide child pornography network.

Border clash

Ankara (Reuters) — Turkish border guards shot dead one Iranian and wounded two in a clash on the mountainous Gurbulak border in the north-east of the country.

Poets protest

Dhaka — About 300 Bangladeshi poets held banners and marched through Dhaka yesterday demanding democracy and an end to censorship.

Certain death

Sarrebourg, France (Reuters) — Yvon Watzki, a French firearms enthusiast, shot himself dead at the weekend playing Russian roulette with a gun which made death inevitable, being a special type which automatically loaded the last round into the firing chamber.

Giant catch

Sydney — An Australian boy, aged 15, Stephen Colvray, who took up fishing only last year, has caught and landed a giant white pointer shark weighing 1,038lb — less than 10lb under the 20-year-old world record.

Afrikaner Juliet defies family fury for a black's love

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

An Afrikaner Juliet in a conservative Orange Free State gold mining town has rejoined her black Romeo and she says they will marry as soon as she is 21.

Miss Annette Hemis, aged 20, slipped away late on Saturday night from the home of friends in Allandridge and returned to her boyfriend, Mr Jerry Tsie, aged 22, in nearby Kuttoosong township eight days after she had declared their affair was off.

She said yesterday: "I left the township because my feelings about Jerry and my responsibility towards my father were very confused. After eight days I decided my place was with Jerry." They would marry in November, she said, when she would reach the age of majority.

Miss Hemis had lived for six months in her boy friend's township home before the pressure from the white community became too much for her. Although love across the colour line is no longer a criminal offence in South Af-

rica, since the scrapping of Section Six of the Immorality Act, attitudes in the Orange Free State goldfields remain firmly conservative.

Her family disowned her and her stepmother declared her "dead". Locals in the town of Odendaalsrus, where she has lived all her life, and where she met Mr Tsie when he brought film for developing into the photographic studio where she worked, say her father, Mr "Tiny" Hemis, a barman, can "no longer hold his head up high".

Mr Tsie said yesterday that he was delighted that Miss Hemis had returned. But the prospects of a trouble-free courtship appear remote.

He says that he has received telephone threats to his life from somebody speaking with an Afrikaans accent, who said he represented the "lovers' hit squad". Mr Tsie also claims that he has been sacked from his job. Last week a white man was charged in Odendaalsrus magistrate's court with pointing a pistol at him.



Miss Annette Hemis, aged 20, and Mr Jerry Tsie, aged 22, relaxing together in the Kuttoosong black township.

Police accused of assisting Inkatha

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Residents of black townships near the Natal provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg yesterday accused the South African police of siding with one of the two factions involved in a bloody feud which has claimed about 400 lives.

More than 100 residents signed a petition which is to be presented today to the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, requesting that the police either demonstrate their impartiality or be replaced by the Army.

The death toll in the township unrest continued to rise. The police reported the stabbing, shooting and burning to death of 11 more people during the previous night.

A field worker for the white Progressive Federal Party, Mr Radley Keys, said 107 black women from the Ashdown township, just outside Pietermaritzburg, came to his office yesterday with complaints that the police were openly assisting Inkatha gangs.

"We heard complaints that the police were seen transporting Inkatha warriors into the Ashdown area, and we have eye-witness accounts of Inkatha thugs assaulting people while the police stood by and did nothing," he said.

Scores of other township residents came with similar allegations against the police, who continue doggedly to deny any partisanship, to the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness.

"Residents say they saw large numbers of vans and other vehicles full of men armed with guns, spears and clubs setting off towards Ashdown after an Inkatha rally on Sunday in the Sweetwaters area," Mr Peter Kerchhoff, the director of the agency said.

● **BRUSSELS:** South Africa has recalled three diplomats at Belgium's request in a dispute over the imprisonment of a Belgian woman, Helene Passoors, in Johannesburg.

Roh bends to political wind of change

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

A wind of change is sweeping through the police stations, universities, theatres and murky corridors of political power in South Korea.

Demands for reforms which would have been unthinkable a year ago are gaining momentum — and a cautiously sympathetic response from a new Government committed to ending four decades of authoritarian rule.

Mr Roh Tae Woo, who takes office as President in two weeks' time, has pledged to implement his own brand of *glasnost*, and the people are taking him at his word. The most startling appeal came from a meeting of young policemen and cadets in a Seoul restaurant this week. Apologizing to the public for "shameful" behaviour during the violent civil unrest of last summer, they called for an end to political influence over the force.

"Police neutrality is a prerequisite for the realization of true democracy," their statement said. "It is not subject to political compromise, but a precondition if police are to fulfil their duty of maintaining public security and social order." The representatives of more than 400 graduates and students of the National Police College argued that freedom from political influence was vital to improve their tarnished public image.

Informed sources said the dissent

officers had been encouraged by the recent arrest of Kang Min Chang, a former director of the National Police Headquarters, for conspiring to cover up the torture and murder of a student in police custody a year ago.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party welcomed the police agitation as a positive sign, and promised to study their demands. Mr Shim Myung Bo,

Seoul (Reuters) — The former head of the South Korean police was charged yesterday over police attempts to cover up the torture and death of a student activist last year. Mr Kang Min Chang's indictment said that he had abused and neglected his duty when he ordered a doctor to falsify a post-mortem report. He was detained last month after the doctor named him as one of those involved in the cover-up.

the DJP Secretary-General, admitted that the police had been discredited by the public for "overstepping their authority".

A similar reform movement is well advanced at Seoul National University, a prestigious state-run institution, which has drawn up regulations which would prevent the Education Ministry from expelling students for their political activities.

Responsibility for campus order and academic standards would be invested in an autonomous council of

40 faculty members. Hitherto disciplinary action against student activists has been the preserve of the university president, in consultation with government officials.

The draft amendments, which were submitted to the Education Ministry late last week, are regarded as a test case by other universities and colleges planning similar reforms. Professor Min Byung Su, the dean of student affairs at the university, is optimistic that most of them will be accepted.

During his election campaign, Mr Roh indicated a more enlightened attitude towards the rigorously controlled performing arts by informing a group of comedians that he would not object to them caricaturing him on stage. Last week DJP policy makers duly complied with the new climate of artistic freedom by announcing that they would abolish prior censorship of plays, films and sound recordings by the end of this year.

More far-reaching reforms are being mooted by the Democratization and Reconciliation Council, an independent advisory body of academics, lawyers and other professionals set up by the DJP to formulate a more liberal style of government. Its members have been tackling previously taboo issues, such as alleged abuses of power by the presidential security force and by the pervasive intelligence agencies.

Inevitably, in a country as deeply conservative as South Korea, re-

actionary voices have been raised against the rapid pace of reforms.

Mr Kwon Pok Kyong, the Director-General of Police, was clearly unhappy about the "unauthorized" demands of some of his men, and announced he would take appropriate steps to prevent any further outbursts. However, a hastily convened meeting of senior police chiefs decided to take no disciplinary action.

Ms Lee Young Hi, the chairman of the Public Performance Ethics Committee, essentially a government censorship agency, has insisted that it is legally entitled to protect the public from what she calls "obscene and left-leaning" content in the performing arts and cinema. Her view was reflected in a recent editorial in *The Korea Herald*, commenting on the decision to abolish prior censorship.

"All artists must realize that they have now an added responsibility to cope with the persistent perils of a hostile ideology (Communism) that poses a grave threat to our national survival," it said. "Drama productions should be permitted only in so far as they do not undermine or endanger the moral and ideological foundation of the nation."

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, may be interested to learn that his *glasnost* policy appears to be a difficult process at both ends of the political spectrum.

Anger at Polish price rises

By Our Eastern European Correspondent

Long-awaited price rises came into force yesterday, heralding the most comprehensive reform of prices in Poland's postwar history.

The move came despite demonstrations in Warsaw and Gdansk on Sunday, during which protesters chanted slogans against the new prices.

The price rises are, despite assurances by the Government in last November's referendum to slow the pace of price increases, bound to hit Poles severely.

Basic foodstuffs and tobacco rose yesterday in price by an average of 40 per cent.

Post and telephone charges were increased by 50 per cent and the cost of public transport, including trains and

buses, has also risen by 50 per cent — along with the price of vodka and all official rents.

Even higher are the new rises to come into force for petrol, which is rationed in Poland. The cost of a litre will increase by 70 per cent, although this move is accompanied by an increase in the monthly ration (now 24-36 litres depending on size of vehicle) on condition that this increase is paid for at a "commercial price".

This gesture is unlikely to help Poles as the current "commercial price" is three times the state price for petrol.

Far more serious increases in prices, however, await all energy consumers. Coal, once highly subsidized, will from

April 1 become 200 per cent more expensive, while the cost of gas and electricity will rise by 100 per cent.

The increases are part of a complex process which the Government hopes will overhaul the country's ailing economy, satisfy Western bankers and encourage investment.

It was announced yesterday that factory workers would be cushioned against the price rises by a monthly subsidy of 6,000 zlotys (£20), in addition to the average monthly wage of 30,000 zlotys.

It is unlikely that these latest rises will be accepted without dissent by most Poles. In 1970 and 1980, price rises provoked widespread strikes.

French nuclear setback

More cracks beset reactor

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The discovery of a host of fresh cracks in the main support container at France's Superphénix nuclear power plant in Creys-Malville has dealt another severe blow to hopes of getting the world's biggest fast-breeder reactor back on stream within the next two years.

Technicians using ultrasound devices to inspect the huge steel drum where highly radioactive fuel cools down are reported to have located almost 100 fissures, in addition to those through which some 20 tonnes of potentially explosive liquid sodium, escaped last spring.

As *The Times* reported in

November, senior managers at the £2.5 billion Superphénix plant — located on the banks of the Rhône some 40 miles from Lyons — maintained that, although this leakage resulted in a total shutdown, there was no danger.

A proposal to renew generating operations after certain "revisions" to the reactor system had already been submitted to the Government's nuclear safety inspectorate.

In a front-page story on Sunday, *Le Journal de Dimanche*, claimed that the authorities have now concluded that the entire storage drum will have to be replaced.

The immensely complex

job is expected to take at least three years and cost as much as £100 million, plunging the intended showpiece of France's nuclear power programme further into the red.

More controversially, the report suggests that the spread of cracks had seriously endangered the security of the adjacent nuclear reactor.

● **Cracks denied:** A spokesman for the French electricity authority yesterday denied that almost 100 new cracks had been located in the cooling tank. He conceded, however, that since the scanning operation is still continuing, the possibility of further damage could not be ruled out.

Knives sharpened as Chicago Democrats feud

From Charles Bremner, Chicago

Just when Chicago thought it had won some peace after years of ferocious political feuding, the Windy City has been plunged back into the bloodbath.

The sudden death of Mayor Harold Washington in November, only seven months after his re-election, has launched a new struggle among the Democrats, whose factional quarrels have long made politics the biggest local blood sport.

At the centre is Mr Eugene Sawyer, aged 53, the black alderman who was unexpectedly appointed acting mayor after a night of bitter and rancorous manoeuvring last month. Now the soft-spoken Mr Sawyer, who still refers to his larger-than-life predecessor as "the Mayor", is a lonely man, bogged down in a personal scandal. Some of his council allies are constantly under police escort for fear of bodily harm.

But although jeered in public by fellow-blacks, Mr Sawyer has launched a campaign for election in 1989.

Though he is black, like Mr Washington, Mr Sawyer was pushed into office by a bloc of whites and a handful of blacks on the racially divided council while his opponents chanted "Uncle Tom Sawyer".

He is seen by many of Mr Washington's supporters as a white puppet, an old-fashioned product of the political machine built by the late legendary Mayor Richard Daley and partly dismantled by Mr Washington.

"Harold Washington was the leader of a deeply rooted black movement who wanted to smash the political machine," says Professor Gary Oldfield of the University of Chicago. "Eugene Sawyer is a machine politician who went along with that movement for survival. Anything can happen now, and it's going to be wild."

Until his death a decade ago, Mayor Daley ran Chicago as a virtual dictatorship through tight control of the Democratic organization and blatant patronage.

The picture has now reversed from 1983, when the narrow election of Mr Washington against a divided white field brought euphoria in the huge black districts and trauma in many of the white wards. After four years of "council wars" between black and white aldermen, Mr Washington won strong re-election last year with near-absolute support from the 40 per cent of the electorate who are black.

Next time it looks likely that the black vote will be split. Mr Timothy Evans, Mr Sawyer's main rival, is expected to challenge him, with the support of the black majority on the council.

"You can't have a division —



Mr Sawyer: Frantic efforts to shed an Uncle Tom image.

you can't have two black candidates or you'll lose," said Mr Sawyer after announcing his candidature for the spring 1989 election this month. "I'll be the candidate, trust me."

Mr Sawyer is now working frantically to shed the Uncle Tom image and pursue Mr Washington's agenda.

made," he said last week about charges that he had sold out to the old party machine.

Mr Sawyer declared a month ago that patronage was "dead, dead, dead", then found himself having to explain why more than 12 friends and relatives had just been given council jobs. "That was before patronage was dead," he said with a lame grin. This week, as Chicago slithered in cold and snow, he struck a deal with the two huge taxi companies who have enjoyed a monopoly since Mayor Daley's days. This will allow a small number of independent drivers to ply for trade.

But Mr Sawyer must first ride out a scandal which has erupted over his own financial affairs. Soon after taking office, *The Chicago Tribune* revealed that he had received a \$30,000 payment from a local lawyer, now a judge, 10 years ago while he was a simple alderman.

First, Mr Sawyer denied the

newspaper's charge that the fee was for obtaining planning permission for a business in his ward. It was, he said, for helping Mr Fred Sadak, the lawyer, win financing for an Arizona land deal.

This month he changed the story without explanation. "It wasn't an Arizona land deal," he said. It was for helping one of Mr Sadak's clients obtain financing for a new shopping centre. "As an alderman in a local community, I have every right to push and try to get business in the community where those businesses have difficulty in getting financing," he said.

In other cities, this might raise eyebrows. Not in Chicago, according to Mr Jim Squires, an editor at *The Chicago Tribune*. "What is routine, everyday business in Chicago, people go to jail for elsewhere," he wrote.

Chicago is only beginning another long and bruising election campaign.

TUESDAY PAGE

Finding a common denominator

What is it that makes some partnerships last, while others end in the divorce courts? In the second of a three-part series,

Victoria McKee discovers some ingredients of the successful marriage — and its critical pressure points

If she had to devise a couple with optimum marriage prospects, Zelda West-Meads, of the National Marriage Guidance Council, would conjure up a man in his middle to late twenties and a woman two years younger. They would come from similar backgrounds: a solicitor, say, and a town planner. They should have lived on their own for a while and should start married life in their own home — definitely without a mother-in-law. The man's job should be equal to — or better than — the woman's and they should share a similar sense of humour. Most importantly, they should come from happy families, since happy marriages, research shows, beget happy marriages.

Marriages have a statistically better chance if the partners have as much in common as possible. "Age, background, nationality, religion, politics — and agreement on how to bring up the children," according to West-Meads.

There is almost universal acknowledgment of this yet, "opposites do attract," West-Meads admits. "Sometimes people are drawn to the qualities they wish they had. Marriage can be a jigsaw, in which contrasting types fit together well."

The older you are when you marry, the greater chance your marriage has of surviving — unless it is your second marriage. "The success rate of second marriages is lower than first," West-Meads says. "Unless there are no children involved. Second marriages are seldom just a couple, there are additional pressures to face."

What makes a marriage work has been perplexing people for centuries. Should women put husband or children first — or perhaps start thinking of themselves? Does the two-career marriage really work? Can a woman earn more than her husband without also earning his resentment? Are children the cement that holds a marriage together — or the wedge that finally cracks it apart? Do women work at marriage more than men?



Part 2 The signposts to success

Dr Masud Houghi, the psychologist who devised and presented Yorkshire Television's series *Why Couples Break Up* maintains that you can never predict which couples will stay together — although marriages less likely to survive are statistically predictable.

He would put communication and knowing how to deal with conflict top of the skills needed. People can change dramatically over the years "inside as well as superficially. But you need to be careful how you attribute the changes," he says, "not to do it damagingly. You need to know how to communicate — not simply talking but hearing what the other person has to say."

Marriages that can take regular minor eruptions in their stride are generally more secure than those in which "people bottle everything up until the break up", Houghi says.

"And slow love lasts longer. Passion can die quickly after children."

Dr Desmond Morris, the anthropologist, who has been married for 35 years to his wife Ramona, holds "matching intelligence" to be the secret.

"The 'bimbo' marriage is in all sorts of trouble. A dumb blonde may be sexually appealing in the short term, but the key is kindred spirit. And if you share a sense of humour it will get you through all sorts of things."

But physical appeal should never be underestimated, he stresses. "And it is important to have a balanced degree of interest in sex — if you both have no great interest, that's fine. But imbalance of sexual appetite is one of the classic ways to collapse a marriage — and that's something you should be able to find out early on!"

West-Meads insists that the relaunch of the National Marriage Guidance Council next week — under the name *Relate* — is not an implication that marriage has gone out of fashion.

"Ninety per cent of the population marry; three quarters of those who divorce remarry. There could well be a plateauing out of the divorce rate," she says, optimistically adding: "Although Britain has one of the highest divorce rates in Europe, with approximately one in three marriages failing — 154,000 a year, you could also say that two in three marriages last."

The divorce rate is higher among blue-collar workers than white, and highest among the unemployed. West-Meads believes there may be more determination to make marriages work among the middle classes because "there is a tremendous amount invested materially. A high mortgage, the children's education; there's a lot more to lose."

There appears to be agreement over the crisis points that most marriages will confront. Adultery can merely be the symptom of a sour relationship. Christopher Chulow is chairman of the Institute of Marital Studies at the Tavistock Clinic, which will be 40 years old this year and counsels couples in crisis, trains practitioners and serves as a research centre into marital problems. He says that marriage usually comes W-shaped.

After the dizzy highs of early



love come the troughs of the toddler years when marital satisfaction is said to be at its lowest. There is an uplifting interval between the pre-school and teenage periods which are peak parental pressure points. After that, a solid marriage is most likely to succeed.

The outspoken American sexologist and marriage counsellor Dr Theresa Larsen Crenshaw outlines the most common crisis points in marriage in her book *Your Guide to Better Sex*. The first comes after the first year of marriage, when "the newness of the relationship has worn off. Each partner becomes more critical of each other and less and less considerate." The next might be during a pregnancy, either because the woman's pregnancy gives her, or her husband, an excuse to avoid sex — or after the birth of the first child. "Children are created from sex and then seem to destroy it. As the child gets older, there is a greater and greater infringement on private time."

The seven-year itch is a reality, according to Crenshaw. "Affairs occur frequently at this stage as the person searches for a meaning to existence and is basically explor-

ing life's options." And at 10 years women who married in their early twenties may feel suffocated in the relationship. "She feels guilty and inept, unable to please her husband, hungry for a kind word, crippled by criticism." Ten years later her husband could have his own problems as he runs into a mid-life crisis.

British counsellors would add to the list of critical points: the children starting school, the children leaving home, illness, redundancy, money-problems, menopause and the thousand little irks and ills that flesh is heir to.

More than 75 per cent of divorce petitions are filed by women, but this is not evidence that they are the first to give up on a relationship, more proof that they need to go to court for help after a man has walked out.

Margaret Bennett, treasurer of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a partner in Malkin, Cullis & Sumption, suggests that men are likely to look on a prospective partner as though she were a business deal. They weigh her looks, her career and her personality in the balance. But after 15 years or so he might look

at her again and decide she is now a liability and leave.

Dame Judi Dench, married for 17 years to actor Michael Williams — a first marriage for both of them — believes that marriage must be worked at. She says: "We try not to take each other for granted. You have to make the effort all the time."

Bryan Forbes and Nanette Newman, married for more than 30 years also believe that a sense of humour heads the list. Forbes says candidly: "My first marriage was a disaster. I just got lucky the second time and found a wonderful girl. But if you can't laugh together you're on a sticky wicket, and we can always laugh. Most rows are ridiculous, anyway."

Houghi echoes the majority of marriage and relationship experts when he warns: "Any couple that puts anything before the marital relationship is asking for trouble."

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TOMORROW
Is marriage still the best option for a long-term relationship?

CHANGING VIEWS

When the Matrimonial Survey of 1947 was published just under 40 years ago, it revealed that the ideal husband was seen as "breadwinner and defender of the home" while the woman was "housewife and mother". When a repeat survey was carried out in 1969 it found that the more traditional ideals had been replaced by notions of friendship and compatibility between spouses.

Last year's *British Social Attitudes* survey revealed that couples see faithfulness as the most important factor which keeps them together, but "mutual respect and appreciation" was also high on the list. The survey concluded: "A successful marriage seems to be sustained above all by good personal relationships..." These were the reasons given for success:

Faithfulness	86%
Mutual respect	77%
Understanding and tolerance	69%
Living apart from in-laws	55%
Happy sexual relationship	50%
Adequate income	34%
Good housing	33%
Having children	31%
Sharing chores	25%
Tastes and interests in common	21%
Same social background	11%
Shared religious beliefs	5%
Agreement on politics	3%

Seventy six per cent still favoured the traditional arrangement where a father worked and a mother with children under five stayed at home.

Twenty years ago there were 46,000 divorces in Britain. By 1986 there were 154,000, the second highest figure in Europe. The 1969 Divorce Reform Act, which allowed "irretrievable breakdown" as sole grounds, is seen as one of the main reasons for the dramatic rise in the figures. Although the average length of a marriage ending in divorce is 10 years, one third of all divorces take place within the first five years. These were the main reasons cited for a break up:

Consistent unfaithfulness	94%
Violence	92%
Ceasing to love the other	75%
Consistent over-drinking	59%
Personalities	42%
Does not match	42%
Unsatisfactory sexual relations	28%
Cannot have children	7%
Cannot get on with relatives	4%
Financially broke	4%
Long-term illness	3%

A lamp still burning

Throughout her 50 years in nursing, Dame Winifred Prentice fought to improve the status of the nurse from menial to professional. Now, in the light of this week's planned strike, she tells George Hill she feels she may have helped let the genie out of the bottle

What would Florence Nightingale say about all this? Her comments on today's uproar in the National Health Service and the threat that thousands of nurses may strike for a day tomorrow would be as caustic and salutary as one of her mid-Victorian antiseptics.

In the absence of that rigorous voice which kept generals on the battlefield and ministers of the Crown on their toes for 50 years, one might do worse than turn to a bungalow in a village under the Grampian hills and inquire what Dame Winifred Prentice has to say.

She too can draw on the experience of 50 years' strenuous involvement in the problems of nursing. She was one of those who fought to secure its professional status in the 1950s and was a leading figure in the Royal College of Nursing, as its chairman and president, in the recurrent waves of controversy which swept the NHS in the Sixties and Seventies.

"Nurses are being used as political pawns and I wish they were aware of it," she said in her green-fingered retirement in Brechin, a few miles from Strathcathra Hospital, where she worked as principal tutor and matron (a title from the past) for 25 years.

"They say patients are not going to suffer and that emergency cover has been taken care of, but I don't know how you could do it and face the



Dame Winifred Prentice: "Hospitals have become terribly top-heavy with administrative posts"

she entered half a century ago was in many ways far more like the one that Florence Nightingale knew than the world of today. It was "as different as a convent is from a comprehensive school," she says. "It was an almost monastic life. The discipline was very strict and Matron was the queen bee. You didn't just have to be on time for meals with your uniform just so — you had to eat them or she would know the reason why."

One began to suspect that the future Dame might have been rather a handful as a student nurse. Perhaps Matron used to deplore what young nurses were coming to in those days too. On their precious afternoons off, Matron would inspect them to make sure that they were "dressed like ladies", which

meant hats and gloves. "When you were going out with the current boyfriend you didn't want to appear like that, so we used to throw them into the shrubbery at the gate and pick them up on the way back."

In the 1930s, nurses still had to attend lectures in their free time if they wanted to reach State Registered status. And there was no Central Sterile Supplies Department leading out dressings by the gross at alarming expense. "We had a fish-kettle in the ward to sterilize things on the spot — and it made a terrible smell if you let it boil dry with a rubber catheter in it."

"I know the actual work has changed out of all recognition. Patients are discharged much, much quicker and hospitals today have to co-ordinate their provision because the equipment is so expensive. But I think you can turn the clock back to something like the old system of local boards of governors. It was an honour to serve on them. There was a sense of noblesse oblige then."

She would like to see more ancillary services contracted out to private companies, but has reservations about hospital "hotel charges" because they would involve means tests and the creation of second and third class patients.

On nursing:
"I feel a bit let down. We thought we were setting up a really first-class profession — and now they seem to want to throw it away as if we were just factory workers"

think in a way it's a pity. We're all in this together and I don't think we want to be put into being 'goodies and baddies'."

She sees clearly that it would be "stupid and impractical" to try to go back to the old life of monastic dedication and being "paid almost nothing". Nurses have their own lives and responsibilities now and they need increasingly to include mature women induced to return to

the profession once their children have gone to school.

But she retains all her old dedication to the objective of a profession accorded and deserving of higher esteem. She would like to see qualified nurses earn a basic salary comparable to that of the police (a staff nurse today earns less after eight years than a constable on his first working day), and an end to "all those tidily bis — extra duty, weekend working and so on: why should nurses talk about overtime when a patient can't be sick from nine to five?"

"But I think we shall always need the nurse with warmth and heart. There is nothing so exciting as working in a hospital ward. There is all the pathos and humour in the world there."

Philip Howard's New Words for Old will appear tomorrow.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1478

ACROSS	1 Pliable (6)	5 Repudiate (6)	8 Shade (3)	9 Cotes (6)	10 Chevy nuts sweet (6)	11 S. American flightless bird (4)	12 Wicker encased bottle (8)	14 On calamity! actor (9)	17 Water tortoise (8)	19 Foot blow (4)	21 Unbiased (6)	23 Proclaim publicly (6)	24 Wildebeest (3)	25 Church storehouse (6)	26 Method (6)
DOWN	2 Turbulent (5)	3 Israeli PM (1969-74) (5)	4 Orde Wingate soldier (7)	5 Twill-weave cotton (5)	6 Tiny French coin (3)	7 Climate (7)	13 To a Nightingale poet (4,5)	15 Fill with dread (7)	16 Author's collection (7)	18 Chubby (5)	20 Garlic segment (5)	22 Spleen (3)			

SOLUTION TO NO 1477
ACROSS: 1 Eclair 5 Mock 8 Curse 9 Snippet 11 Flumflam 13 Posy 15 Isherwood 18 Ha-ha 19 Antennae 22 Graphic 23 Gavel 24 Plot 25 Rumble
DOWN: 2 Congi 3 Axe 4 Restaurant 5 Main 6 Concord 7 Swift 10 Yo-yo 12 Foam 14 Mole 15 Ishmael 16 Thug 17 Deals 20 Navel 21 Soot 23 Gum



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FASHION by Liz Smith

The cut of a classic

The Burberry trench coat, lined with the distinctive plaid, is a symbol of all that is best in British tailoring. Now the famous name and check is to be seen on less traditional items

The increasing preoccupation of clothes-manufacturers with the mood or aura which surrounds their creations reaches some sort of high point this month. Burberrys, that most traditional of British institutions, whose confidence in its own identity might seem unshakable, is going out of its way to define more precisely for its customers the mysteries behind its signature check linings, and to make more tangible an image beyond the epaulettes, D-rings, storm flaps and other distinguishing details stitched into its most famous product, the Burberry trench coat.

The inheritors of the style established in 1856 in Basingstoke by a country draper, Thomas Burberry — which he successfully moved to London in 1889 — are "At Home" this month. In each Burberry shop, in every window display, as well as in Harrods from February 15, it is open house on the Burberry style. The company which invented the water-proof gaberdine coat for field sports, and which lifted out its officers for the trenches in the First World War, can be forgiven for finally playing out to the full the theatrical effects of its shooting sticks, golf bags, waxed Cairn jackets and fully-fashioned pull-overs.

In recent years, it has had to watch designers like Ralph Lauren set up house in a mansion on Madison Avenue and turn it into a temple to the old-moneyed lifestyle of the country house. The Glen urquhart tweeds, Norfolk jackets and golfing breeches which Lauren re-designs each season and sells in the studied atmosphere of scuffed leather armchairs and worn rugs are, after all, the accoutrements of the good life which Thomas Burberry and his successors have discreetly purveyed in their Haymarket headquarters since 1891. Other high street retailers, notably Next, have also noticed that clothes presented on anonymous racks in a sterile-looking shop do not look quite the same as they do hanging in the cosier, wood-panelled surroundings of a gentleman's dressing room.

With the recent explosion of Burberry products, to include a Dundee cake on a tea tray, and jars of lemon curd lined up in the pantry — as well as umbrellas in the hall or a teddy bear in a nursery — the temptation to manipulate the force of its image has finally proved irresistible. The experience of being invited to share the comfortable Burberry way of life should bring home to us all the way in which a tweed jacket, a sand and navy check suit or a plaid blanket, can enhance our lives.

To the French, Burberry is the translation of *le style Anglais*. For the Americans, the Burberry trench coat is the accepted uni-

form of the Madison Avenue advertising executive. In Japan, there are 200 Burberry shops-within-shops, and the scaled-down trench coat made in Japan under licence is a top seller, second only to the original version imported from the United Kingdom at twice the price. The enthusiasm of the Japanese for wearing a Burberry raincoat, tied at the neck with the inevitable check cashmere muffler, is such that Burberry's turnover in Japan alone has risen from £20,000 in 1969 to £62 million last year.

The man who presides over this chunk of British heritage, and who has won the Queen's Award for Industry five times, believes that we take our heritage of indigenous styles too much for granted. Stanley Peacock, the managing director of Burberry export and retail, may not be a direct descendant of the Burberry line, but he has his own claim to the present-day Burberry dynasty. His father, William Peacock, acquired Burberry for Great Universal Stores in 1956. His son John William Peacock is European marketing director, based in Paris.

The company has grown at the rate of 25 per cent each year since the early 1970s, and the workforce numbers more than 3,500 in 11 factories, from which three million items of merchandise roll out each year. More than 280 kilometres of cashmere scarves are made every year, and 6,000 classic trench coats a week. A total of 450 cashmere coats — which sell for about £1,000 each — are tailored every week.

From the company headquarters in Hockney, east London, computers are linked to 36 sales

showrooms around the world. Although the firm coasted satisfactorily for years on its raincoat business, it is Stanley Peacock's visionary expansion of the product range to include accessories, shortbread and Scotch, as well as more fashionable items of clothing, that has been the major breakthrough. "We want to provide the essential elements in everybody's wardrobe. The piece which a woman hangs on to year after year should be the Burberry coat, tweed skirt or waxed cotton country jacket," he says. "We do not claim to be fashion designers. We have a sense of product and aim for perfection, to carry on creating the garments which fit perfectly and whose buttons don't fall off."

Burberry's new design director, Kenneth Lazarus, and his team of 11 regularly update the well-loved classics. In 1988, the rubberized riding mac or covert coat is cut shorter and with added swing, but still retains its traditional detailing. Even the Burberry trench is now available in a shorter length. For summer, there are well-tailored shorts as well as more classic skirts and pleat-front trousers. Knitwear may have been expanded to include jazzy nautical



stripes, fashioned on more up-to-date lines, but there will still be old favourites, like the traditional twinsted and the Argyle patterned jersey, in stock.

Customers are encouraged to take pride in the ownership of a Burberry original. Monograms can be stitched into the lining. Appeals are regularly made in personal columns of newspapers for vintage styles. When US Customs attempted to increase import duty on the classic Burberry trench to about 35 per cent, claiming the tags, loops and buckles to be mere decoration, American generals rushed to their defence, pointing out the necessity of the coppered D-rings for water bottles.

The familiar camel, white, red and black plaid, which has lined the Burberry coats for so long, is now being promoted widely, and

successfully, on toffee wrappers, on the soles of teddy bears' feet, on luggage, dinner plates and on the packaging of the growing range of Burberry foodstuffs. The charging knight in armour of the Burberry label is woven as the monogram on the new collection of towels and bathrobes. "We do not wish to confuse people," Stanley Peacock says. "We make no apology for the use of our signature checks. That is the secret of good business."

Promised for later this year, is the Thomas Burberry Collection, a range of more relaxed fashionable separates, to be tested first in the Regent Street store in London. A smarter, more glamorous collection of soft silk dresses is also in the pipeline. Burberry will be "At Home" in UK stores all this month, in Harrods from February 15-29, and in Europe and America later this year.

Above: Traditional raincoat in the new short length, £215; golfing trousers, £75. Tan and white brogues, £25. McAlfee, 100 New Bond Street, W1

Top right: Vest in navy and ivory printed polyester, £40; mid-calf skirt, £120; lambswool cardigan, £49.50. Right: On-the-knee raincoat, £235; knee-length skirt in traditional checks, £95; lambswool jumper, £34.50; child's dress, £39.50

All clothes from Burberry, 161 Regent Street, W1; 18-22 Haymarket, SW1; 454-456 Union Street, Aberdeen; 39-41 Princes Street, Edinburgh; 84 Buchanan Street, Glasgow

Hair: John Birchall. Make-up: Debbie Burn. Photographs: STEVIE HUGHES



A study in style

Although Alfred Dunhill's first retailing venture was to turn his father's harness-making business into the manufacture of duster coats, fur lined leather jackets, mufflers and other motoring accessories, it was only with the opening of his first tobacco shop, in St James's in 1907, that the Dunhill business as we know it was established.

Alfred's grandson Richard Dunhill today opens an exhibition which traces the social changes of 80 years, alongside the history of the company. From the ingeniously engineered lighters, cigarette cases and cigar cutters of the smoke-filled decades, up to the present no-smoking 1980s — when Dunhill find themselves back in the fashion business selling gentlemen's haberdashery, watches and pens — the exhibition celebrates Dunhill's

role as The Englishman's Companion at home and abroad.

The Maharajah of Cochin-Bihar in the 1920s had in his pocket a Dunhill compendium which, at a flick, revealed lighter, watch, cigarettes, pencil, notepad and penknife, all in the one monogrammed, ribbed 9 carat gold compact. The exhibition explains how both Goering and Churchill were kept supplied with their favourite cigars during the Second World War.

Dunhill's international fashion status has broadened recently with the acquisition of Mont Blanc pens and the Paris-based ready-to-wear and fragrance house of Chloé. "The history of Alfred Dunhill's Englishman's Companion" is at 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1, until February 22.



Katharine Hamnett

Tailor-made to beat the world

Designer Katharine Hamnett was among the high-performers in markets abroad who won export awards last week from the British Knitting & Clothing Export Council — presented by BECEC president, the Princess Royal (in a silver lame and velvet ankle-sweeping suit), at a dinner in the Mansion House. Controversial Hamnett, best known for her politically-charged slogan T-shirts, succeeded in selling her trendsetting crumpled cottons and linens to the tune of £20 million in 1987, 70 per cent of which was in exports. The council's chairman, Barry Reed, had the satisfaction of watching one of his Austin Reed tailoring companies, Chester Barrie, pick up one of the awards, in the shape of a handsome scroll from the College of Arms.

The other chic

It was for his puffballs and crinolines for the couture house of Patou, in January 1986, that Christian Lacroix first won the De D'Or, the Paris couturiers' award sponsored by Helena Rubinstein. Lacroix won it again last week for his second own-label collection, and was presented with the giant Gold Thimble by Madame Bernadette Chirac, the wife of the Prime Minister and Mayor of Paris.

However, it seems that

some Lacroix customers compromise when it comes to actually wearing the pouffe. At a post-collection dinner hosted by Bernard Lanvin at the Grand Vefour restaurant — in honour of his couturier wife Meryl — New York society leader Mrs Nan Kempner displayed the chic

way with *le vrai* Lacroix. From the waist up, her dress appeared to be the puffed-sleeved leg o' mutton, and fringed original. But for her, as for many of his customers, Lacroix had re-cut the skirt of his black silk cloqué dinner dress to a slim, trim silhouette. It looked great.

Janice Wainwright
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TIMES DIARY

BARBARA AMIEL

My friends and I were quite excited, almost in feverish anticipation I would say, trying to guess which journalist would first blame Mrs Thatcher for Aids. So we are all feeling a bit let down now by Julie Burchill's gentle mention that "you might as well blame Mrs Thatcher's precious tourism for Aids as blame sex."

I hadn't thought of the problem that way until reading Ms Burchill's account in *The Mail on Sunday* of how a recently convicted Caribbean black murdered his white old-Etonian lover whom he had first met when he was a 12-year-old lad in Trinidad.

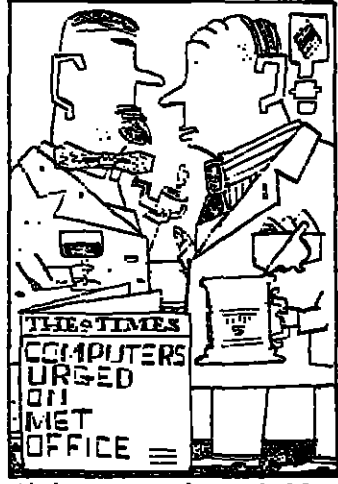
This, explains Ms Burchill, is the reason Aids has become a Western homosexual disease when it is really an African heterosexual one. All this new affluence Mrs T has created has allowed a lot of amoral homosexuals to holiday in Haiti where, according to Ms Burchill, fathers sell their sons and the wealthy purchasers bring back the virus to Britain.

Assuming Ms Burchill is right, and I have no idea about such things, why would Haitian fathers prefer selling their sons to rich white homosexuals than their daughters to rich white heterosexuals? And is the Aids virus as class-conscious as she believes? Does it really prefer travelling in the bodily fluids of wealthy white tourists rather than poor African emigrants? Still, my friends and I agree, the 1988 Wilfred Burchett Cup for reporting must go to Ms Burchill.

I confess to joining those female viewers who are madly attracted to the devastating looks of *Breakfast Time's* John Stapleton. But I did get a bit worried last week when he seemed in such a state about those Royal College of Nursing officials who seemed to want to stick to their organization's constitution and not go on strike. At first I thought it was one of those BBC tough interviewing techniques, showing John ask beleaguered RCN secretary-general Trevor Clay if it wasn't time "to reverse your policy of no-strike". He just wouldn't let go of the matter. "What's the point of a no-strike policy?" he demanded and "what do you say to those who look at how the Government gave in to the blood transfusion workers?" or something quite difficult like that. Then I realized what it was all about. It's nostalgia, of course. Remember those days when Britain led the world in industrial action and Italy and Canada could only limp along behind? John is just hankering after days gone by, and why not? I remember those events long ago when I too enjoyed the full potency of youth.

Over at the Brompton Oratory at last Sunday's morning mass there was a little prayer at the end "for greater understanding between East and West so that peace may be secured". This is very nice, of course, but I think one can see how silly the thought is, just that way, if one asks did the Second World War happen because Churchill did not understand Hitler? Perhaps what the Church might want to pray for, if I may be so bold, is that the Holy Spirit might enlighten the leaders of the world so that they act in the best interest of human beings. To suggest that peace comes through "greater understanding" alone smacks of moral equivocation and seems to me to remove the question of the nature of the regimes involved. Not that either side is without motives, you understand, but...

BARRY FANTONI



I wandered over to Camden on Sunday afternoon to take a look at the Girls and Young Women activity day. The Community Centre was full of children and their parents, doing batik work and learning how to make a delicious spiced Caribbean chicken. Some of the women were watching the videos on incest and self-defence and there was a bit of a discussion about how to gouge out eyes. One woman explained that putting your fingers in a mugger's mouth and pulling hard was very effective. There were two tables of books and one game. The game was called *The Grapevine Game* and consisted of cards that had "facts" or "opinions" like "How do girls masturbate?" or "How do you get an abortion on the NHS?" It was recommended for 12-year-olds and over. A copy of *A New View Of A Woman's Body* was well thumbed, although I found some of the text and photographs quite awful, together with a guide to do-it-yourself abortions. Menstrual extraction, they called it, I think. What puzzled me was how apologetic and genuinely caring about their children the mothers were. I suppose it is one of the great virtues of the hand left or right that they use the natural inclinations of people for socializing to organize clubs to push their ideas and do some grass roots organization.

At dinner last week, Robin Leigh-Pemberton mentioned that he had sent a Christmas cheque to his son Willie, who was working in Hong Kong. The Chinese bank teller to whom Willie presented the cheque was not amused by British good form. "This cheque takes a long time to clear," he explained. "Very strange. No address. No branch. Not normal cheque." Willie said he thought it would probably be all right. Willie was right. The cheque was cleared by tea-time. Benevolence reigned. "Everything all right now," beamed the teller. Indeed.

The high tax rates of the 1970s both discouraged initiative and risk-taking and encouraged tax evasion and the brain drain. Although there is no way of calculating the precise point at which people decide they have sufficient income, and that the extra effort, risk and loss of leisure are not worthwhile, the higher the marginal rates of tax the more quickly people reach this point.

That is the reason why Sir Brandon Rhys Williams is introducing a Bill under the Ten Minute Rule today which would prevent any government from levying rates of tax above the basic rate.

It is not only those who already pay higher rates who are affected: it is noticeable that those who lobbied hardest for the reduction of rates in the United States were the owners and managers of small enterprises who aspired to be better off by expanding their businesses, but who were discouraged by the prospects of tax rates over 50 per cent.

Higher rates of tax distort decision-making; so far as the growth of the economy is concerned, they are nothing but a hindrance and should be abolished.

Abolition would dramatically simplify tax legislation. At the moment, taxpayers spend much time and money seeking ways to avoid the higher tax rates. The Government then devotes its efforts to introducing laws to close discovered loopholes. These laws are often found to have side effects upon other groups who were not avoiding the original measures, and further adjustments have to be made. The result is legislation so complex that Parliament fails to scrutinize it effectively and the Inland Revenue has difficulty in administering it. In the disquisitions of tax reform, too little attention has been paid to the objective of simplicity for its own sake.

Nor is the present structure even the most efficient way of raising the revenue required. There is much evidence that lower tax rates bring in more money. They not only encourage

effort but also, of course, money left in private hands does not lie fallow. It is either invested, which contributes to further growth, or it is spent and the Inland Revenue benefits from an increase in the yield of indirect taxes. So in the terms of the yield to the Inland Revenue and the simplicity of administration, there is no case for higher rates.

The case for higher rates must therefore rest on some principle of equity. There is nothing inherently regressive about the abolition of the higher tax rates: those on higher incomes will still pay more and, because of personal allowances, proportionately more of their income in tax.

The complete abolition of higher rates of tax would highlight an argument of equity in relation to national insurance contributions. Taxpayers below the upper earnings limit for national insurance - currently on earnings of £15,340 a year -

but above the lower earnings limit, would have deductions of 27 per cent for tax and 9 per cent for national insurance. Those above the upper earnings limit, if there were no higher rates, would pay only 27 per cent of each additional pound earned.

There is a logic to the upper earnings limit as long as there is a corresponding upper limit above which the contributions do not increase. But, because it would be considered inequitable for high-income earners to pay a lower marginal tax rate than those on lower earnings, the upper earnings limit could be abolished. (This would, incidentally, placate those wanting restriction of mortgage relief and other income tax deductions to the basic rates, since the relief is not deductible for national insurance purposes.) Removing the limit would

roughly halve the cost of abolishing higher rates. But it is not likely that there would be a major loss of revenue at all. The reduction in the top rates of tax from 83 per cent in 1979 (98 per cent for investment income) to the present levels has been a major factor in the yield from high tax earners growing by 90 per cent in real terms. If the abolition of higher rates has anything like a similar effect, high earners will continue to contribute at least as much to public funds as they do now. They will, of course, do so from the higher incomes they will be encouraged to earn, and they will be better off themselves.

So do we have higher rates of tax because it is morally wrong for people to have high incomes? All experience shows that high rates of tax do not eliminate high incomes. Companies are prepared to pay high incomes to those whom they are determined

to recruit and retain and will gross up the salaries offered to take account of the higher rates. Those who complain of the large increases in salary offered to some fail to see that they are the direct consequence of the higher rates of tax. Any change which removes the need for these large increases could have a beneficial effect throughout the wage bargaining system and would reduce inflationary pressure.

Companies fear that without high salaries, the best and the brightest will go overseas. This risk is increasing. All round the world, governments are looking at ways of lowering tax; it would be ironic if this Government, the first to enunciate clearly the damage done by high marginal tax rates, gave new impetus to the brain drain.

Last year, Treasury briefing papers to the returning Labour government in New Zealand stressed the need for a careful balance between equity and efficiency when determining a tax structure. This led the Minister of Finance, Mr Douglas, to conclude that he should abolish all higher rates. Will Britain's Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer be less bold?

The author is head of the Policy Unit of the Institute of Directors.

Judith Chaplin supports today's Commons simplification move

In praise of one-rate tax

T.E. Utley

About turn on internment

Let us suppose, for the purposes of argument (certainly for nothing else), that the conduct of the British Government, the security forces in Northern Ireland and the Court of Appeal has been as black as their bitterest critics on both sides of the Irish Sea have been stridently claiming.

Let us suppose that, in determining the case of the Birmingham bombers, the Lord Justices of Appeal regarded themselves not as a court but as an arm of the executive, charged with the task of assisting the successful prosecution of a military campaign; that Sir Patrick Mayhew and Sir Barry Shaw were exclusively concerned to cover up and thereby to contribute to a conspiracy to pervert the course of justice in order to conceal that the RUC, with the full co-operation of the Army, had been engaged five years ago in a "shoot-to-kill policy".

All these assumptions are wrong, but let us make them, in the first place for the purpose of asking whether the deplorable state of affairs which they describe is more likely to be put right because of the existence of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

In my view, the very reverse is the case. In this country, we prize highly the independence of the judiciary and, those of us who understand it, the independent, semi-judicial role of DPPs and Attorneys General in deciding whether to bring prosecutions.

This does not mean, however, that judges and law officers are immune from public criticism. These learned gentlemen should, of course, always be on their guard against slavishly yielding to such criticism, but it has the function of alerting them to their errors and making the repetition or the perpetuation of those errors less likely than it otherwise would be.

All this holds good, however, only so long as the public debate about judicial and semi-judicial decisions is conducted rigorously in terms of law and justice. The moment extraneous considerations, political or diplomatic, are allowed to enter the

debate, its usefulness is utterly destroyed. To condemn a judge for acting politically and then to go on to demand that he should act politically in another direction is simply not on.

In the debate of the last week these extraneous considerations have bulked very large indeed. It is true that the Irish government has not gone so far as to suggest that the decisions of an English court should be set aside for the purpose of promoting good relations between Britain and the Republic, though the Attorney General and the Northern Irish DPP have not been protected from such direct criticism.

However, public interest in this country has focused far less on the importance of preserving the purity of the judicial system than on the grievous danger of reaching judicial decisions which will impair harmonious relations between London and Dublin.

All this is likely to prompt, and certainly ought to prompt, those in this country who are genuinely concerned with the rule of law to dig their heels in in defence of everything that has happened. It will certainly prompt all those in Northern Ireland who are genuinely concerned with the defence of the Union to interpret any apparent concessions to the Republic in relation to the disciplining of the police or the future organization of trials in the province as weak-minded attempts to compensate the Nationalists for past injustices.

A clear and unsparring review of how the security campaign has been conducted in Ulster is far less likely than it otherwise would be, because any such review would now take place under the shadow of an assumed obligation on the part of the British to make their behaviour conform as far as possible to the wishes of southern Irish opinion.

Proceeding still on the ridiculous assumptions with which I began, what other implications have they? Suppose this country in its treatment of Ireland has departed from all the sacred



principles of the rule of law: could it have done otherwise without disastrously and permanently injuring the prospect of public order, and, therefore, of the rule of law itself in the Six Counties?

The widely accepted premise of this whole discussion is that it is impossible to suppress terror-

ism in Ireland, or anywhere else, without some modification of the procedures of law enforcement. You cannot have jury trials when jurors can be easily intimidated; you cannot convict terrorist criminals when adverse witnesses and their families are likely to be molested or murdered for telling the truth.

It was this that led the Government to consent to the re-introduction of internment (later euphemistically known as detention) in 1971. This was a clear and clean suspension of civil liberty. It was badly managed, caused a great deal of trouble, but also produced some swift and valuable results. Above

all it did not corrupt the legal system, because it had nothing to do with the legal system. If you arrest a man administratively, you make no accusation against him and are not required to pervert judicial procedures to keep him out of harm's way.

Once the British Government was induced to abandon internment - out of deference to Nationalist opinion, American opinion, EEC opinion and the morbid conscience which afflicts most British politicians in their dealings with Ireland - other methods of rendering terrorists harmless had to be found. Confessions had to be secured by strenuous interrogation. That worked until also ruled offside by the same forces that had put a stop to internment.

The use of informers has suffered the same fate. The policy of depending on intelligence to be at the scene of the crime when the crime was committed was bound to lead to shoot-outs and accusations, true or false, of murder, though who can doubt that the majority of those thus "murdered" were themselves actual or intending murderers.

My point is that all these attempts to adapt policing and judicial procedures to the demands of a terrorist crisis have been as effectively neutralized as was internment. Most of them also are, in their nature, likely to do more permanent injury to the rule of law than internment.

Pathetically, the British Government has been seeking for years a way of restoring order in Ulster which will not even temporarily alienate the Ulster Nationalists, the Irish Republic, and world opinion. It is now clear that there is no such way and that internment is the cleanest and least damaging alternative available.

If this is not soon recognized, the present moribund muddle will go on *ad nauseam*, and its most likely eventual conclusion, alas, is some swift, total, improvised and disastrous abandonment of Britain's responsibility to Ulster.

Commentary • TONY BLAIR

Young at heart

Lord Young, the Industry Secretary, is certainly never knowingly undersold, least of all by himself. Visitors to the DTI nowadays are met by a bewildering array of neon signs, logos and exhortations from the noble lord, whose picture adorns the entrance.

In the same way, the White Paper on the re-organization of his Department appears to be 90 per cent hype. We were promised a major strengthening of competition policy, and we end up with some administrative changes ostensibly designed to ease the passage of mergers - hardly a deadly blow for competition. Nothing, for example, for the consumer or an indication of government unease at how companies and employees can be "put into play" on the market with scant regard to any public or industrial interest.

The changes in relation to research and development, science and technology and innovation are either marginal or involve a reduction in government commitment. Lack of vigorous policy in these areas is probably one of the single most important reasons for the UK's appalling record in new technology industries.

Only two aspects of "the Department for Enterprise", as it is now called, can be said to represent "radical change": but the new regional policy is principally remarkable for ending the system of automatic grants to companies setting up in the worst economic blackspots while the Business Development initiative appears to involve showering large sums of money (£100 million a year by 1990) on private marketing, design and management consultants to

companies of under 500 employees. Advertisements have been placed in national newspapers offering retired business people a chance to earn £70 a day in 80 days a year as part-time "enterprise counsellors" for the DTI. The job involves conducting business renewal in which, among other things, they will assess how a firm could benefit from a consultancy project.

Such a system is open to abuse; the quality of "enterprise counsellors" attracted is unlikely to be high and there must be a real risk of firms undertaking expensive consultancy exercises, 90 per cent funded out of the public purse, which are either unnecessary or would have taken place any way. Yet this initiative will take the principal part of increased DTI spending. This seems a most curious, if not eccentric, ordering of priorities.

Two by-products of Lord Young's review are, in many ways, more interesting than the review itself. First, it indicates how an increasingly large amount of political debate is becoming devoted to the efficiency and accountability of government. In this sense, Lord Young's initiative is to be welcomed since it takes as its starting point the notion of government making itself accessible and based where things are happening, rather than locked away in Whitehall.

But there is no reason why this openness and drive for efficiency should end at the DTI. The conspiracy against understanding the mission to confuse, pervades most of government. But an influential body of public opinion is beginning to take these matters very seriously and with growing alarm at the way

the present government behaves.

Greater openness will inevitably bring, as the Soviet Union has shown, a greater desire to examine the effectiveness of "the system": taxation reform, the relationship between tax and benefits, organization of the public sector, devolution of government power to the regions, even down to what seem minor matters but are actually crucial like the way budgets are formulated. These issues may come to occupy a rather higher place on the political agenda.

Secondly, although making all the right Thatcherite noises about government not running industry, the underlying theme of the review is in fact close involvement between industry and government. This is most obvious in the increased emphasis on selective rather than automatic assistance. But it is more significantly to be found throughout the proposals (however poor or superficial), whether on the inner cities, services to exporters, or indeed the Business Development initiatives. In each case the *leitmotiv* is clear: the market alone will not suffice; government has an essential part to play.

Just as the left has learned its lesson from the mistakes of centrally directed planning in the 1960s, it may be that the right is also coming to terms with the inadequacy of "free market" dogma. Reluctantly there is a recognition of the need for government and industry to work closely together. This can only be of advantage to the country, if the Government summons the courage to will the means as well as the end.

The author is Labour MP for Sedgefield.

SCIENCE REPORT

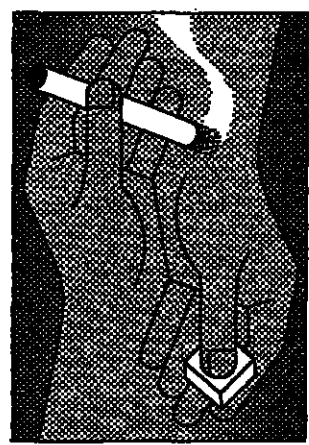
Stuck on gum

Anti-smoking chewing-gum with twice the usual content of nicotine helps committed smokers to break their habit, but there is a risk that they become addicted to the gum.

This is the conclusion of a study of 173 smoking addicts in Copenhagen, reported in *The New England Journal of Medicine* (January 7). The researchers say that doubling the dose of nicotine in a stick of gum to 4 milligrams succeeds in keeping a third of formerly heavy smokers off tobacco for two years. Danish anti-smoking gum at present has 2mg of nicotine per stick, but only about 6 per cent of those using it had stopped smoking after two years.

Philip Tomson, leader of the research group, also explains how some less heavily addicted smokers can be induced to give up by the use of "placebo" gum. This looks and tastes exactly like the commercial product except that it contains no nicotine. The Copenhagen study has shown that, among light smokers, there is no difference between the proportions of those taking placebo gum and ordinary nicotine gum who have not smoked for two years.

The group's chief recommendation is that extra-strong gum should be available on prescription to really heavy smokers. This is already the case in Britain, while the makers of Nicorette, the only nicotine gum on sale in the United States, plan to apply to



the US Food and Drug Administration for approval to market 4mg gum later in the year. The drawback seems to be that smokers reformed by the use of gum may end up as addicted to it as to tobacco. In the Danish study, 15 per cent of those treated with gum were still using it after two years - four times as long as recommended by the manufacturers. Acknowledging that these nicotine doses will themselves be a problem, Tomson nevertheless believes that addition to nicotine gum is the lesser evil; the side-effects are minor compared with the health hazards of tobacco.

Meanwhile, there may be hope for gum addicts in the findings of a group of three medical researchers at the Johns Hopkins University Medical School and the Addiction Research Centre at Baltimore, Maryland. Writing

in *The Lancet* of January 2, they describe their work with a man who had given up a 60-a-day habit of 21 years only to become addicted to nicotine gum. They prepared special packs of gum in which some sticks contained nicotine as usual while others were placebos. By increasing the proportion of placebo gums sticks with the passing weeks, the man is said to have been weaned from his dependence.

The Danish researchers, in their account of their research, are at pains to emphasize that the use of nicotine gum is not a substitute for proper counselling, a view supported by physicians and anti-smoking groups in Britain.

Dr Godfrey Fowler, reader in general practice at Oxford University, has no doubts regarding the efficacy of nicotine gum when administered properly, but it is "not a panacea" and in no way substitutes for proper counselling.

Dr Michael Russell, director of the Addiction Research Unit at the Maudsley Hospital, London, says that counselling and self-motivation are essential for those who wish to give up smoking. He says they need "proper instruction" in the use of nicotine gum.

He and David Simpson, director of the pressure group Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), fear that hard-pressed physicians may prescribe the chewing-gum while too busy to warn of its dangers.

HENRY GEE



1 Peanington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

MESSAGE FROM THE NURSES

As the Health Service dispute comes closer to the battlefield both sides are wary. Government ministers and Health Service union chiefs keep as careful a watch on their own forces as on those opposing them. All sense opportunities; and see dangers.

For the Government the opportunities in the results of the poll which we publish today are clear. While lacking the confidence of the nurses for its handling of the NHS, it can claim to have persuaded a remarkable 85 per cent of them that restructuring is needed in the way that national health services are provided.

If the nurses do not believe that their unions' demands for more money are the only answer to the failings of the system, there is surely a good chance of persuading others too. Professional acceptance of the principle of reform — by nurses as well as doctors — is crucial to the pace at which reformers will be able to proceed. With careful consultation, such acceptance may not be as far away as they thought.

There are, of course, dangers for the Government too. Its supporters, both inside and outside the service, are nervous. It has made an uncertain start along the road to its long-term reform. None of its most heavily canvassed ideas find much favour on the wards. If there are well-publicized casualties of tomorrow's industrial action, the political cost will not be borne entirely by Mr. Kinnock and his union allies.

A small crisis is a good catalyst for reform. A major crisis, leading to a lengthy battle, is not — as the mining industry has discovered.

There is, as yet, no Arthur Scargill at the forefront of the health dispute. The leaders of

the Health Service unions will be pleased to learn that more than half of nurses approve of tomorrow's day of action. They have prepared the ground carefully for a campaign which is supposed to bring no harm to patients. They know well that while the Government may pay more (maybe substantially more) under pressure, it will pay nothing in blackmail.

The line between the two, however, is a thin one. If any patients are harmed, the nurses' solidarity is likely to collapse. The battle may then intensify — with extremist politics playing a greater part. The hard message from the poll for Mr. Trevor Clay of the Royal College of Nursing is that a third of his members may be opposed to the traditional policy of refusing to strike.

There have been disturbing accounts of attempts to woo RCN nurses by the more militant men and women of Nupe and Cohse. If the momentum of the dispute becomes too great, Mr. Clay may neither be able to control his members, nor even keep them.

Public opinion will not allow British hospitals to become a battleground. The Government is certain to have overwhelming support for compelling peace, if necessary.

Union members will not gain if that happens. Nor will those in the DHSS and Downing Street who now have the best chance for decades to produce a new health service for the 1990s and beyond. But the NHS would probably be stuck for longer in its present rut, not only affecting those frustrated in their wish for treatment tomorrow but frustrating many more patients for many more tomorrows.

THE GERMAN PROBLEM

There need be no false regrets if this morning's meeting between Mrs. Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl fails to produce a basis for compromise on the European Community's budget crisis. Compromise should be far from her thoughts.

It matters not that the Chancellor's mission represents a last faint hope of saving the special European Council which has been arranged for February 11 and 12. As West Germany currently holds the rotating EEC presidency, it is his uncomfortable duty to seek compromise. But the solution he has proposed amounts to tinkering — saving a few hundred million pounds at a time when the EEC has accumulated debts of £24 billion and faces a further £4 billion deficit this year.

Neither the German proposal nor a somewhat tougher plan put forward by the European Commission bear any relation to the size of the problem. The British government will be perceived in Europe as carrying most of the blame for the failure to settle the 1988 budget. But until the Commission is faced with empty coffers, unpaid bills, legal suits and angry creditors, it is unlikely that Britain's partners will be ready to join Mrs. Thatcher in addressing the fundamental problems.

Assuming there is no agreement until after the presidency passes from Germany to Greece, the money will begin to run out some time between June and September, according to Commission predictions. No one knows what will happen then, because there is no precedent. Will governments continue to buy overproduced farm goods into intervention stores, only to find that the European Commission has no money with which to reimburse them? Or will they refuse to buy, risking demonstrations and legal actions by unpaid producers?

All that is clear is that there will be political grief. Until there is pain there will be no realism, and until there is realism the Common Agricultural Policy will not be reformed.

Throughout the 15 years since Britain joined the EEC (and indeed long before), agricultural policy in the Community has been driven by fear. Once the fear was French, a fear of massed rallies of tractors blocking the autoroutes and delivering agricultural by-products on ministers' doorsteps. Now France's farm

population is down from 20 per cent to 6 per cent and the fear stems from West Germany's 700,000 agricultural work-force, of whom about half a million are small farmers.

In a federation which is always facing an election, and currently has two on the horizon, the problems of Herr Ignaz Kiechle, the German farm minister, should not be underestimated. But the British taxpayer may reasonably expect its Government to be tough. Net European taxes this year are expected to exceed the figures predicted a year ago by some 60 per cent. These extraordinary rises are happening in spite of the rebate which Mrs. Thatcher negotiated at Fontainebleau in 1984.

Britain receives a rebate of two thirds of its net contribution, which is the gap between payments to Brussels and sums received from it. But the gap has increased so much that even after the rebate Britain's net payment in 1987/88 is expected to be about £1,400 million against £870 million predicted earlier.

When Mrs. Thatcher negotiated the rebate, the agricultural spending of the EEC stood at £9 billion a year. Last year it was about £18 billion. The proposed (and rejected) 1988 budget would have taken it to about £19 billion.

Chancellor Kohl has implied that he envisages some sort of trade-off, under which Britain would be allowed to keep its rebate in return for its assent to a compromise. If he says as much today he should receive a sharp reminder that the arrangement cannot be changed without unanimous agreement from the twelve. The rebate is not for renegotiation.

It may seem absurd that figures of the standing of Mrs. Thatcher and Herr Kohl should have to become steeped in the arcane concepts of Brussels. The relative merits of "co-responsibility levies" (which Kohl likes), "stabilizers" (which he likes but he only tolerates), and "set-aside" (which he likes and she only tolerates) should have been sorted out by the agriculture and finance ministers months ago. It is only because they have failed so completely in their task that the leaders have been reduced to such levels.

This morning's discussion should cut through the jargon and concentrate on the real issue: how long must Europe wait before its leaders accept financial responsibility?

SOUTHERN COMFORT FOR NATO

The weekend's summit meeting between the Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Andreas Papandreu, and his Turkish counterpart, Mr. Turgut Ozal, has met with a mixed response within their countries. The reaction of their allies must be more positive.

Relations between the two nations, which constitute Nato's south-eastern flank, deteriorated badly in 1974 after an attempted coup prompted an invasion of the island by Turkish troops. A slow improvement led to the start of a fresh dialogue between the two governments in the summer of 1983 — which broke up later that year after the unilateral declaration of independence by the self-styled Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

In March last year, the two countries came to the brink of war — this time over the vexed question of mineral and territorial rights in the Aegean. This flashpoint does at least seem to have fused the two sides again — though how permanently remains to be seen. That they have agreed to strive for a *rapprochement* only 10 months after nearly coming to blows, is sufficient cause for relief in the Western alliance.

Criticism of their weekend summit has been largely confined to Athens, where informed opinion had clearly hoped for more. It was Mr. Ozal who had been pressing for such a meeting — anxious as he was to remove any obstacles to eventual Turkish membership of the European Community. Sceptical Greeks have since complained that he achieved his diplomatic objective, without conceding anything in return.

He did not, for instance, have to agree to the dispute over the Aegean continental shelf being taken to the International Court of Justice in The Hague (as the Greeks would like). Nor was he pressed for an answer on the question of de-

militarizing Cyprus. The Prime Ministers put such contentious questions on one side.

One may well ask why Mr. Papandreu, not noted for his ebullient personality, agreed now to resume their ruptured dialogue, with no guarantee of progress on such issues. One reason no doubt is that he sensed the anxiety in Ankara to pave the way to the EEC. Another could be that he wanted to strengthen his hand in his negotiations with Washington over American bases. The White House knows that as long as the threat of war between Turkey and Greece persists, Mr. Papandreu cannot risk seeing the Americans withdrawn.

While they did indeed fail to tackle the issues which divide them, one should not diminish the significance or achievements of their meeting. It was, after all, the first of its kind between Greek and Turkish heads of government for 10 years. They have established a "hot line" to settle future crises and have outlined a pattern of meetings at several levels. Two working parties have been set up, one to review the scope for bilateral contacts; and the other to "define" the issues which divide them.

The climate of mistrust between the governments has made detailed negotiations impossible for some time. A package of such confidence-building measures, while apparently little in itself, looks the best way to end this continuous state of tension.

It will not guarantee solutions to old problems. Disputes of several kinds over the Aegean, the division of Cyprus and removal of Turkish troops, will need patience, skill and diplomatic help from the United Nations. But if they cannot be solved in the wake of a general *rapprochement*, they could certainly not be solved without one. Athens and Ankara have taken an important step towards ending their quarrel — and that must be good news for their allies.

Language with market value

From Mr. M. Hollow
Sir, Mr. Eric Hadley (January 28) laments that pupils at his school and their parents are not easily convinced of the marketable value of a language like Russian and suggests that this is a reason for the decline in its study.

Ironically, it is the decline in the study of Russian, in the first instance in schools, which is actually increasing the marketability of the language. I, for one, have half-a-dozen jobs to offer to people with a first-class knowledge of Russian, could I but find them. It is a language which we as a nation can ill afford to neglect and the place to start teaching it is in the schools.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE HOLLOW (Organiser, Soviet Monitoring),
BBC Monitoring Service,
Caversham Park,
Reading, Berkshire,
January 29.

From Dr. M. McCauley and Professor M. V. Jones
Sir, Your leader (January 11) on Russian studies is welcome, but misses the point. The crisis lies not only with Russian studies but with the study of the Soviet Union and eastern Europe as a whole. In higher education coverage in some critical areas, for example Bulgarian and Rumanian, is down to one full-time university post.

The most pressing problem is, however, in the social sciences, where staff coverage and post-graduate activities are declining fast. The brain drain, retirements, the need to cover other subjects combine to reduce teaching and research devoted to politics, economics and international relations on the Soviet Union and eastern Europe to risible levels by any standards.

The US alone invests six times as much *per capita*. The special problems besetting research place immense obstacles in the way of the postgraduate to our knowledge only one PhD student with a knowledge of Russian is at present working on the Soviet economy.

Certainly priorities should be revised, but not only in higher education. Those of a government seeking improved relations and business in need of new fields of export must also be taken into account in any review. When our rivals in East and West are deploying increased resources on knowing each other, are we so much better that we need do nothing?
Yours sincerely,
MARTIN MCCAULEY
(Chairman, National Association for Soviet and East European Studies),
MALCOLM V. JONES
(President, British Universities' Association of Slavists),
University of London,
School of Slavonic and East European Studies,
Senate House, Malet Street, WC1.
January 16.

Local talent

From Professor M. S. Laverack, BSc, PhD, FIBiol, FRSEd
Sir, John Norrington (January 26) asks for competition for his list of higher education in country lanes.

My village of less than 200 souls boasts three university professors, one senior lecturer, one lecturer, two early retired academics, several other academically related staff (at a rough estimate there are about 15 degrees amongst them), one major-general and two sea captains (Merchant Navy).

Of these the Army, the sea and academe (one professor, one early retired lecturer, a schoolteacher and other related staff) are all represented in five out of six adjacent houses in a small group situated on what used to be the road to the railway station.

Taking the total group of seven houses in this area we also boast a travel agent (for attending all those conferences), a book editor (where else would academics go to publish?), an art therapist and a car mechanic and salesman.

We muster five degrees and sundry professional qualifications and memberships of societies and institutes. When the mature off-spring visit, then we also boast at least five more degrees (including medical, Arabic and scientific, with an engineer on the way). There are even, in term time, a couple of undergraduates bidding fair to join the list.

Yours sincerely,
M. S. LAVERACK,
Bransford, Boreham,
St Andrews, Fife,
January 26.

Bull point

From Mr. Peter Vile
Sir, Further to your recent reports (January 27, 28) of the sad loss of Bernie the bull during his enforced crossing of the sound of Vatersay, his spirit and your readers may be pleased to learn that Royal Assent was given on July 23, 1987, to a provisional order for the construction of a causeway connecting Vatersay to Barra.

There cannot, in my view, have been a more poignant proof of the accuracy of the statement contained in paragraph three of the preamble to the said order, namely: "There is great difficulty in transporting... livestock... to and from the island of Vatersay..."

Yours sincerely,
P. A. VILE,
1 The Sanctuary,
Westminster, SW1,
January 28.

Nursing resentment in the NHS

From Mr. Eric Moonman
Sir, It is understandable that management and staff as well as district health authority chairmen like myself (Salisbury) should find the present climate in health care both troubling and tense. Yet, it has to be said as frequently as possible that the pressure on resources in the health service is not a contemporary phenomenon.

Ever since the establishment of the NHS, 40 years ago, no national basis was provided for resource requirements. In consequence, resources have never been matched to the health needs of the community. What has been lacking is a co-ordinated strategy taking into account variations in regional and district requirements and, where resources were limited, alternative methods of funding. (RAWP — resource allocation working party — was never intended to fill the role, nor did it.)

Too often the long-range problems were never tackled, with the result that resource shortages were passed from one government to the next political party taking office. At the same time, service demands have increased as we live longer and newer diseases, such as AIDS, demand complex and costly treatment.

All these points are legitimate areas of argument between the political parties. Yet they do not start with a common set of statistics. The answer lies in an independent body respected by all sides which will attempt an accurate assessment of resources.

The present crisis, with the threatened strike by nurses on Wednesday, is, however, not about these issues. The action is being exploited by Nupe (National Union of Public Employees) and Cohse (Confederation of Health Service Employees), with likely tragic consequences for patients (as reported in *The Times*, January 30). Union competition for nurses' recruitment is now intense and by using the present dispute with the Government these unions will certainly win members in the short term, but in the long term we shall all be the losers.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC MOONMAN,
1 Beacon Hill, N7,
February 1.

From Lady (Robert) Sainsbury
Sir, After years of involvement with the nursing profession and watching the current developments, I would like to stress a point which I feel has not been given the prominence it deserves. I am convinced that it is only if all concerned can ignore their

political allegiances that solutions can be found to the many problems which must be overcome if the NHS is to remain viable and something of which we can be proud.

The care and welfare of the patient must be the first consideration and the stability which is essential for this purpose can only be maintained if political attitudes don't interfere.

Inter-union confrontations, for increased membership with outside political pressures and strikes, whether of nursing staff or other health-care professionals, can only lower still further the standard of care of patients and increase the stress on those who try to carry on.

Let it not be forgotten that a one-day strike can disrupt a whole week's work.
Yours faithfully,
LISA SAINSBURY
(Vice-President),
The Royal College of Nursing,
20 Cavendish Square, N1,
February 1.

From Mrs. V. E. Chadwick
Sir, Mr. John Moore is reported in *The Times* (January 23) as saying that "the Government aimed to correct a weakness of the British health services by encouraging personal provision."

As the Government are finding it increasingly difficult to provide adequate health services to the British citizens who contribute regularly to the National Health Service, may I suggest that it is time that others who receive free treatment but make no contribution, in particular students from abroad, their families and other overseas visitors (excepting those from Common Market countries, should be obliged to have their own private insurance when they enter this country.

Yours faithfully,
V. E. CHADWICK,
12 Pennsylvania Close,
Exeter, Devon.

From Mr. R. Bruce
Sir, Your report on January 23 that an estimated 5.7 million people are covered by private health insurance. Many of that number are covered by the contributions of company schemes which are allowed in computing taxable profit.

Thus, private health is subsidized by the taxpayer, which nobody points out.
Yours faithfully,
R. BRUCE,
The Coach House,
Kingsfield Grange Road,
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

Test of survival

From the Reverend Michael Bland
Sir, May one put in a quiet word amid the screams of righteous indignation arising from the hot-bed of European culture about the plight of the Aborigines of the southern hemisphere.

How long would the Hottentots of South Africa have lasted had not the European colonists arrived before the negroes did? They would have had short shrift indeed from the Zulu and the Bantu, and races like them, already flooding into their land. They would rapidly have been exterminated.

Similarly, in Australasia, the overspill of the Mongol races from China and Japan stood already at the Torres Strait, and would have passed it all too soon. How long would the Bushmen have lasted then?

The survival of the Aborigines depends much upon the presence of Europeans in their land and will continue to do so. As to their ability to survive, may it be pointed out that there is absolutely no trace whatever of the Aborigines of South America. They were extinct long before the Amerindians filtered down from the northern hemisphere after crossing the land bridge between Siberia and Alaska.

Perhaps it is time for an "Antarctica for the Antarcians" campaign in our newspapers.
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BLAND,
South Lodge, Brickleyhampton,
Near Pershore, Worcestershire,
January 27.

A shining example

From Canon Charles Shells
Sir, Reading Brian James's article, "Picking up a good habit" (January 27), reminded me that last summer I was travelling in a Swiss train when a waiter came along with a trolley of coffee and light refreshments. When he passed along the corridor of the carriage a few spots of clean water were left spilt on the floor. Two young students sitting opposite me promptly got up, took out some tissues and proceeded to wipe up and dry the floor of the carriage. *Sic omnes!*

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES SHELLS,
13 Dod Lane,
Glendonbury, Somerset.

Tea, but no sympathy

From Mrs. J. G. Hyde
Sir, I congratulate Denzil McNeelance upon his delightfully informal photograph of the St. Paul's Cathedral choirboys after receiving their sponsorship cheque (January 23), but was slightly appalled to see them taking tea whilst still wearing their surplices. I have always been under the impression that the surplice was worn only for divine service.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER HYDE,
Fiddlers, Easton,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire,
January 24.

Interviews gap in archives

From the Director of the Institute of Contemporary British History
Sir, I write to endorse most strongly the criticism of Professor D. C. Watt (January 25) of the cost of reproducing documents at the Public Record Office.

Another deficiency in modern British records is the lack, in this country, of a systematic archive of in-depth and confidential interviews with retired decision-makers from politics, the Civil Service, business, and other important sectors of public life.

Just a quarter of one per cent of the time spent annually on the Public Record Office would be sufficient to establish a programme of some 100 interviews a year. Each month, leading figures from post-war Britain die. This work should now be a priority.
Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY SELDON, Director,
Institute of Contemporary British History,
34 Tavistock Square, WC1,
January 29.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 2 1917

This article, one of several written during the war by the proprietor of *The Times*, appeared two months before the United States declared war on Germany in April, 1917. In June of the same year Northcliffe became head of the British War Mission in Washington.

THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN FRANCE.

THEIR LIFE AND FIGHTING.

By Lord Northcliffe.

The following article was written at the special request of the "United Press Association of America". HEADQUARTERS, CANADIAN ARMY, FRANCE.

Embedded in the heart of the great American Army in France is a body of American citizens in khaki who have already succeeded in effecting another of the several revolutions produced in warfare by the United States.

The first and most important was the aeroplane invented by the Wrights, of Dayton, Ohio. The second is the machine gun, originally designed by Maxim, with the newer Lewis light machine gun easily carried, or for use on aeroplanes.

The third revolution is one that I would hardly believe had I not had ocular demonstration. It is the conversion of the British Tommy to a faith in pork and beans as a diet instead of the beef on which he has fought since the time of the Norman Conquest of England.

These Americans in the British Army, with whom I have just spent a day, are part of the topography in which we are living, and when I saw them marching back from the trenches to the tunes of "My Country, 'tis of Thee," "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the less classical and more modern ragtime, I wondered what the small American boys, who have so often teased me on Independence Day celebrations in your country, would have thought of a factor in the war that I do not sufficiently know in the United States.

I propose telling you what the American soldiers in the British and French Armies are doing...

The Germans are particularly bitter towards them, and say that these splendid young Americans were hired by the Allies. From the German point of view the pay of the Americans, who are fighting against Prussianism, is, doubtless, princely. It amounts exactly to a dollar and a quarter a day. I leave people in the United States to judge whether that be the sort of remuneration that is calculated to draw American university graduates — some with considerable private fortunes — business men, real-estate men, clerks, lumber men, engineers, across the Atlantic. The falsehood is one of the bits of German boomerang propaganda with which neutrals are becoming acquainted.

The Americans in the British and French Armies enlisted in divers ways in the first few months of the war. Many came to England direct and entered the British Army. Those who were resident in Europe at the outbreak of the war formed a union with the British residents in France, and joined the French. Others came over later and entered the flying services, where they have done splendid work.

Early in the war, during the battle of the Marne, I was billeted with a number of our dispatch-riders, and much surprised to find that the particular company with whom I was spending the night were mainly from the United States. It is almost impossible to estimate the numbers of Americans in these two Armies, but if we include those engaged in the noble work of the American Ambulance in Paris and its numerous automobile convoys, it has been estimated at quite a sufficient number to have made the American language, American music, and Boston baked beans familiar...

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Not so super a bowlful

Watching *Breakfast Time* these mornings (BBC 1, Mon-Fri) is a depressing experience, rather like visiting an invalid whose voice grows steadily weaker. This comes as no surprise: that dull thud in the distance is the sound of an ill-conceived programme being hoisted on its own petard.

From the moment it was launched five years ago with its crew of presenters in designer knitwear — Frank Bough with his cheerful banalities, "oh silly me" simpers and a plump astrologer with a daily licence to promote pseudo-religion — it was obvious that the BBC had planned the programme quite cynically as a spoiling operation. They brought it on air weeks ahead of TV-am's *Good Morning Britain* and swamped their rival's attempt at serious journalism with a relentless torrent of showbiz trivia.

At the time the BBC were enormously pleased with themselves and even promoted the man responsible for this shabby success, Ron Neil, to higher things. They should have heeded the cautionary words of Gore Vidal who, when a Hollywood hack wrote a script more vulgar than his own, conceded: "Crab has its own integrity."

So it proved in the struggle for the breakfast television audience. TV-am counter-attacked by heading down a road so vulgar (bingo, baby competitions and agony aunts) that the BBC dared not follow.

Once it had lost the trivia war *Breakfast Time* was a programme without a mission. It tried hard to acquire some gravitas. Frank Bough was given a tie and a formidable political reporter, Jeremy Paxman, was brought in to give the programme much-needed weight. But the partnership between Bough whose instinct is to massage his guests' egos, and Paxman, whose instinct is to sever their jugulars, was not a happy one.

Uncle Frank now moved on to *The Holiday Programme*, a more natural habitat. His replacement on *Breakfast Time* is John Stapleton, a choice that suggests a kind of death wish. Stapleton is an experienced reporter but a man of melancholy aspect, with a voice that sounds as though it's been trapped for years in the larva of an unhappy parson. Whatever his virtues, this is not a man to start the day with.

Meanwhile, on the other side *Good Morning Britain*, despite that industrial dispute, holds its audience with a diet of Batman re-runs and, until yesterday, injections of syrup from Anne Diamond, oiling her way across the airwaves by satellite from Sydney. She may be vulgar but she is undeniably watchable. Funny how the BBC failed to notice that, when they had her under contract.

Michael Dean

● The award-winning play *Curtains*, by Stephen Bill, seen at Hampstead Theatre last year, is to be presented at the Whitehall Theatre from February 15. Annette Crosbie, Sheila Ballantine, Alfred Lynch, Ralph Nossek, Philip Bird, Cherith Mellor, Gwen Nelson and Stella Moray are directed by Stuart Burge.

Flesh, fantasy, fascination

GALLERIES IN MUNICH

John Russell Taylor

reports from Munich on a feast of Symbolist shows

For anyone interested in that strange blend of flesh and fantasy which in art goes under the blanket heading of Symbolism, Munich must this winter be the Mecca. This state of affairs probably came about largely because of the centenary of Hans von Marées's death, which fell in 1987. But in addition to the three important exhibitions which have been staged specifically to mark this, the whole thing has spread out to touch on and colour a number of other shows which were probably quite unconnected in intention.

Hans von Marées has always been a difficult artist to pin down. He began painting (rather awkwardly, for he was largely self-taught) the sort of historical genre scenes and portraits which made many German artists of the time a very comfortable income. Then he moved his centre of operations to Italy, where he was one of the so-called Deutsch-Römer group who settled temporarily or permanently under the Mediterranean sun, and proceeded to blossom into a painter of nudes and mythological scenes — as befitted, no doubt, his new context and his romantic attachment to the sculptor Adolf von Hildebrand. Alas, when Hildebrand married they quarrelled violently, and Marées retired again into his shell. His later works have seemed chilly and formal to subsequent generations, and to British viewers they are bound to look like a less assured Burne-Jones.

There is never likely to be a better chance to re-evaluate Marées — if we are going to do so — than right now. At the Neue Pinakothek there is the major monographic show, and a comprehensive, separate show of his drawings in the basement; at the Schackgalerie there is a documentary fascinating, if aesthetically negligible show of Marées and his circle as copyists of the Old Masters (something they did extensively in Italy for money and their own education); and at the Haus der Kunst there is "In uns selbst liegt Italien", which concerns itself with the other Roman Germans of Marées's circle, such as Böcklin, Feuerbach, Hildebrand and some later, like Klinger. (All these shows are on until February 21.)

And how does Marées emerge, in this bombardment of information? It is a pity that some of his best work was done in the form of murals immovably fixed to Italian walls — though these are present as well as may be in large coloured photographs.

It is also unfortunate that, whether from his shaky academic grounding or a personal urge to experiment, he frequently used techniques of his own on his oil paintings which have not worn well. And yet there is something in the paintings which gives them a palpable inner intensity and makes them memorable in spite of everything.

Marées must have been a very tied-up, secretive man, who got personally close to very few people, but that is not the same thing as saying that he was cold. And certainly such works as his "Hesperides" triptych have a mystery about them which puts them in a different league from the pallid and rather bloodless inventions of Burne-Jones.

The Marées drawings are in general much more vivid than the paintings, and a lot better preserved. But probably it is just as well Marées is not brought into too close proximity with his friend and contemporary Böcklin, who constantly threatens to take over the Deutsch-Römer show.

Looking at Marées and Böcklin in roughly the same context, one is tempted to generalize about the effects of Italy in bringing out a latent German tendency to find useful personal symbols in universal myths. (Even the Baron von Gloeden, the whole range of whose photography, erotic and otherwise, is on show at the Münchner Stadtmuseum until March 27, could be brought under that headline.) But we need only look at Die Nibelungen, next door at the Haus der Kunst until February 14, to see that German artists were also perfectly capable of finding inspiration of this kind without ever looking further than their own native mythology.

The show begins valiantly with a few relics from the mythic times themselves, but naturally the works in it date mostly from the Romantic Revival and after. Unexpectedly, almost as much of it is post-Wagner: from the middle of the 18th century on, the *Nibelungen* was a

fruitful source of inspiration for artists, on much the same basis as the myths of Greece and Rome and the pseudo-Celtic plights of Ossian.

But naturally Wagner left his mark heavily on anyone subsequently dealing with the subject, and frequently the designs of such as Carl Otto Czeschka (probably the best illustrator of them all) seem to be inspired as much by the operas as by the original legends.

Then, in the 20th century, gradually the whole body of material begins to take on another significance: Symbolist in a more precise sense than usual, artists such as Beckmann, Barlach, Grosz, and on through to Kiefer find these bloodthirsty tales a useful pretext to consider the whole question of war and the German warrior myth. It is at this point that the show begins to move in the direction of the Schrecker and Hoffmann show, which has just left the Stadtmuseum for its next destinations in Moscow and Leningrad.

This is an interesting and odd undertaking, to run in tandem the reactions of German and Russian artists to war and peace during the last hundred years or so. It is a German/Russian co-production, and it seems to be heavily overshadowed still by the two world wars: whereas the German contributions are entirely concerned with the horror and the shame of war, irrespective of the rights and wrongs of its causes, the Russian contributions, right up to date, are uncomplicatedly heroic, full of crusading fervour.

Presumably it is just impossible for any German artist we might take seriously to feel that Germany this century has ever been fighting the good fight, but in this context quite so much breast-beating begins to look disproportionate and neurotic. Can anyone have meant just that?

More cause for breast-beating back at the Haus der Kunst until February 28: another show to mark the 50th anniversary of the notorious *Entartete Kunst* (Degenerate Art) show in Hitler's Germany. This one, as befits Munich, where the original took place (and the Haus der Kunst, built to house the contrasting shows of official Nazi art), is much the grandest and most ambitious. It attempts to reconstruct the original, with the original pictures wherever possible, and where not with similar pictures by the same



Vivid: "The Horse Handler", a drawing by Hans von Marées from the early 1880s

artists hung in roughly the same configuration. The pictures themselves are prefaced by a documentary show which also takes in the official opposition, including Adolf Ziegler's "The Four Elements", crisp nudes which we are supposed to find despicable (though ironically, if the picture were signed by Tamara de Lempicka or Meredit Frampton we would probably be enthusiastic).

More of the official stuff can be seen, coincidentally, in the Stadtmuseum's large didactic exhibition "Vater-Mutter-Kind" (until February 28). As with the larger questions of peace and war, one cannot help reflecting that art is too wily a bird to be caught in the political net: symbols take on an unpredictable life of their own, often beyond the artist's conscious control, and satisfyingly refuse to be called to account.

Honours even in double revival



Couple out of Gluck: Andreas Jaggi and Marilyn Hill Smith

OPERA

Orfeo
Arts, Cambridge
Orphée
Covent Garden

At the weekend, by a marvelous coincidence, the 1762 Vienna version of Gluck's opera was being presented by Cambridge University Opera Society on Saturday, and on Sunday the English Bach Festival unveiled the later Paris version, of 1774, at Covent Garden.

There are considerable variations between the two. In short, the Paris *Orphée* is a tenor and has a lot more singing and dancing going on around him: the Vienna *Orfeo* is a counter-tenor and is altogether more economic and plain-spoken, living out the very epitome of that *bella simplicità* towards which Gluck was aiming. At the weekend they could hardly have seemed two more different operas, and each one entirely true to its own concept.

Cambridge succeeded against almost every odd imaginable. Julia Hollander, directing, totally inexperienced student chorus with precious little funding, presented Orphée's mourners as the grieving, angry young of

any age. Their black, everyday clothes could have been salvaged from the market; the movement, on the Arts Theatre's cramped stage, was slow, sparse, totally unself-conscious.

Hell was an infernal gymnasium, its torments enacted through a network of black bars and a stifling, rippling white sheet.

The production, and Liz Hale's conventional but effective choreography, drew its strength from stillness. The slow, agonizing walk of Orfeo and Eurydice in Act 3 along a wall of white curtain drew visual echoes from Cocteau's film; Eurydice's almost motionless retreat between its folds created its own indelible image.

So did the singing of Michael Chance as Orfeo, full-toned, plangent and exquisite, phrased. Susan Bisatt's Eurydice was too often placed too far back for the comparatively small scale of her voice; Clare Costa's Amore, too, shone less brightly than the part demands.

Stephen Layton held things together admirably in the tiny pit, but the scrappy orchestra was Cambridge's great weakness. The English Bach Festival Baroque Orchestra had the less interesting score of the two, but Orphée's lyre had certainly been at work on them.

In this amplified version, dedicated to the dance, the spring of the foot, the point of the toe and the flexing of the muscle returned to the music itself in each suspension, each grace note. With Tom Hawkes's direction, Derek West's sumptuous costumes and Belinda Quirey's painstaking and lovingly realized period choreography, the production was a euphony of sound, movement and colour.

With the long tableaux of dance, with an extra aria for Amour just when she should be getting on with it, and a bumping bravura one for Orphée just when he should be getting off, this version sets up its own, longer distances from the audience.

But the anguished interchanges of Act 3 seemed to me more intimate and more movingly inflected in the French; the music's own emotional immediacy remains little changed.

Gluck wanted Orphée to shout Eurydice's name as if he had suffered a real loss: Andreas Jaggi did not. Despite Charles Farncombe's fine conducting, Marilyn Hill Smith's delectable Eurydice and Maria Bovino's Amour, his colourless singing left a vacuum at the centre of what was in every other aspect one of the finest things the English Bach Festival has ever done.

Hilary Finch

Past provoking



Unwholesome display: Charles Nelson (left) and René Bazinet

THEATRE IN PARIS

Le Public
La Colline

Resurrection or crucifixion?
Jorge Lavelli's production of *El Publico* (French title *Le Public*) — classified among Federico García Lorca's unplayable works — admirably succeeds in reviving the polemic piece of *Thirties* Dadaism aroused when it was found in a drawer in the Seventies. Lavelli's extravagantly priant direction however, imbues the work with an unbecoming unwholesomeness that substantiates Lorca's own desire, expressed shortly before he was shot in 1936 at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, that should anything happen to him, this, his second version of the work, be destroyed.

Adapted by the Spanish dramatist, Armando Llamas, with a reassuring ring of fidelity and comparative sensitivity, the Argentine Lavelli teases from the work's high incoherent imbrolio a stream of sub-consciousness whose acidic waters crudely erode away Man's many masks, in an attempt to reveal the truth for which Lorca was desperately searching.

Three men burst into the office of a theatre director. With him, they pass through the proscenium-framed looking-glass into a surrealistic wonderland, where they play a game of hide and truth-seeking, during which, among other things, they discover their carnal love for one another.

It is difficult to know at what point Lorca ends and Lavelli begins. More choreographer than director, Lavelli whisks Lorca's nebulous dreams of unfettered transvestism and homosexuality into a ballet of naked flesh. Lorca's poetic pen stabs viciously at Man's stupidity and cupidity. His words are coloured in by Lavelli with a herd of G-stringed sheep.

Lorca's open admiration of Shakespeare emerges in a plastic breasted Juliet who

rises from the grave, when the tourists have gone, to copulate with a horse. Lavelli places her in a perspex showcase and showers her memory with an effective fallout of stardust. Lorca's text strikes out at religion, but before the blows hit their mark, Lavelli directs them to a red stained Christ forced to carry his own iron bedstead upon which he is crucified.

Louis Bercat's designs make full use of La Colline's superbly equipped stage: screens open and close, a double decker row of theatre exit doors rises noiselessly from the bowels of nowhere. Francisco Zito's costumes are Rodolfo Natale's mask, pay tribute to Dali, Ernst and Magritte, clothing the production in a *Thirties* impudence. The packaging, backed by the Warsaw Musical Workshop, is well up to French high standards. In contrast, the acting, with the exception of Maria de Medeiros as the nymph Juliet, is of the wet paper-bag variety.

Fortunately, Lavelli's creative genius as a director patches over the weak spots, with a continuous parade of imagery which almost fools the brain into thinking the work, 52 years on, is something it is not. Today, Lorca's Dadas are theatrical Dadas. *El Publico* falls a long way short of the liberated homosexuality and revolutionary provocation of writers such as Cocteau and Genet. And Lorca's *Thirties* surrealist vision is nowhere near as acute as that of André Breton in the early Twenties.

This is the first time the work has been performed in France, and its creation inaugurates the main auditorium of Lavelli's resplendent new Théâtre National de la Colline in Gambetta.

Simplistic male nudity, overt homosexuality and bisphemy are no longer provocative. To provoke, that is to break through people's reality-toughened indifference, one now has to raise the dose of grotesque symbolism. The awful truth is that when *Le Public* Parisien walk out after the first half-an-hour, it is not because they are outraged, it is because they are bored.

Diane Hill

LLOYD'S of LONDON

TERCENTENARY

FOUNDATION

One-Year Research Fellowship

Lloyd's of London Tercentenary Foundation is a charitable trust established by the Society of Lloyd's to mark its three hundredth anniversary in 1988. Its objects include the advancement of education and research in medicine, science and business.

The Trustees intend to award two or more one-year Research Fellowships tenable from October 1988 in either of the following categories:-

- Science, medicine and health-care;
- Business and related studies.

Eligibility

Applicants should be desirous of engaging in research in the United Kingdom at a higher educational or business establishment. They should hold a Ph.D. degree or have equivalent research experience. Preference will be given to those aged 35 years or under.

Awards

The amount of each award will be determined by reference to the applicant's circumstances and will include an allowance for research expenses. In the case of an applicant proposing to engage in research at a higher educational establishment the amount of the award is likely to be related to the appropriate lecturer's salary.

How to Apply

There is no application form. The closing date is 5 April 1988. The names of the Fellows will be announced in June 1988. Applicants should write to the Secretary of Lloyd's of London Tercentenary Foundation at the address below describing the proposed research programme and stating the objectives they expect to achieve during the year. Each applicant should also enclose:-

- a curriculum vitae;
- details of any research grants currently held;
- a letter indicating the support of the head of the establishment where the research is to be carried out;
- where appropriate, a letter from the applicant's current employer approving his or her release for the period of one year;
- a statement of the estimated research expenses.

Lloyd's of London Tercentenary Foundation
One Lime Street, London EC3M 7HA

A rare kinship

CONCERTS

LSO/Jeffrey Tate
Barbican Hall

It may be hard to accept a festival stretching through half a year as a coherent exercise in programme planning, but this latest of the Barbican's British nights certainly had a strong character.

In part that came from the sure inward urge given to all three works by Jeffrey Tate: in part it was the achievement of Robert Saxton, whose new piece at the start of the concert guided the ear towards patterns of steady growth, where what grows is less important than the fact of growing. By the end of the evening there seemed nothing surprising in Saxton's frank acceptance of Walton and Vaughan Williams as musical ancestors.

Even so, his Genesis prelude *In the Beginning* suggests an even more immediate kinship with Bartók, to whose memory he dedicated his Piano Sonata a few years ago.

The three linked movements of the new piece, a 17-minute journey, execute a Bartókian passage from prologue through dialectical argument to fast dance: deep in the

background, perhaps, is the model of Bartók's First Quartet.

The connection also comes nearer the surface in the scales with which Saxton works (especially in his second movement) and in the way the first movement goes from a low E to a high point of octaves on the same note, then returns symmetrically following the proportions of the Golden Section.

However, the imagery here of darkness and light is something that Saxton has made his own, and the whole piece is executed with magnificent orchestral virtuosity: rarely has this composer's sheer enjoyment of sound been better celebrated, even if the violin tone did run through bad patches in the final dance, pitched at the point where energy and exaltation touch blind flight.

Afterwards Yo Yo Ma was an eloquent exponent of the Walton Cello Concerto, situating its identity in the lower register, and Tate made Vaughan Williams's Fifth Symphony appear, in its vividness and constant purpose, an entirely apt piece to have been dedicated to Sibelius.

Paul Griffiths

RPO/Rowicki
Royal Festival Hall

Witold Rowicki is not the first name one would associate with Bruckner, but the eminent Polish conductor chose the many-textured Seventh Symphony for his programme with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and by the time it had run its hour-long course there was much to respect in the performance. It did not blaze with the white heat that some conductors generate, but the faster movements all had a welcome vitality.

The composer's intended tribute to Wagner in the sublime Adagio movement, which ended instead as an elegy, after news of Wagner's death reached him, was given the right leisurely unfolding of its rondo design. The sonority of the added tubas to the brass choir achieved a fine grading from hushed solemnity to immense grandeur at the central climax, justifying the conductor's decision to retain

● The 51st Maggio Musicale in Florence opens on April 29 with the Italian premiere of Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes*. The opera will be staged by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle and Jacques Trussel sings the title role.

The British film director Derek Jarman produces his first opera, the world premiere of Bussetti's *L'Isparazione*, for

the possibly dubious addition of cymbal and triangle to reinforce it.

Wind instrument playing in all sections found the orchestra at their best, the strings less resilient in tonal character for the musical weight they must carry. In the finale the playing faltered somewhat despite its vivacity, where the conductor's piecemeal treatment of the movement's three main subjects, and a lack of cohesiveness in the way they were related one to another, ultimately weakened what was so well begun.

As a first part to the programme the C major Cello Concerto by Haydn brought Julian Lloyd-Webber as a pleasantly confident soloist, inclined to dig rather hard at the music in places, but with a brisk spirit in the outer movements and a welcome degree of charm in the middle. Here the orchestral strings surrounded the soloist with studied elegance and the performance had a genial character overall.

Noël Goodwin

four performances at the end of May. Concurrently there will be held a mini-festival of Jarman films.

More film directors, all Italian, are responsible for the revival of Puccini's *Turk in the Street* from the '83 Festival. Olmi directs *Il tabarro*, Piovoli *Suor Angelica* and Monicelli *Gli amati*.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

For who you it is given in the heart of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.

Philadelphia 1:29

BIRTHS

BADEN - On January 29th, to Sarah (nee Briggs) and Michael, a son, Alexander Baden.

BADEN - On January 29th, to Anne (nee Morris) and Christopher, a son, Christopher Baden.

BADEN - On January 29th, to Wendy (nee Salter) and Simon, a son, Edward Andrew Salter, a brother for Oliver.

BRACKLEY - On January 29th, to Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, London, to Jane (nee Milford) and Andrew, a son, Timothy James, a brother for Alexander.

BURROUGHS - On January 30th, to Peter (nee Burroughs) and Jane, a daughter, Fleur.

CLARKE - On January 30th, to Sarah (nee Clarke) and Graham, a son, Edward Clarke.

DAL POZZO D'AMICO - On Wednesday January 27th, in Milan, Italy, to Dr. Dal Pozzo D'Amico and his wife, a daughter, Giovanna Maria Teresa.

DASHWOOD - On January 29th, to Richard and Kathryn, a son, Christopher.

DE FERRANTI - On January 29th, to Christian (nee De Ferranti) and Adrian, a daughter, Isabella Katherine, a sister for Dominic.

DE HAAS - On January 31st 1988, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, to Dr. De Haas and his wife, a son, John David De Haas.

ELMES - On January 27th, to Elizabeth and Glen, a daughter, Claire.

GOLDMAN - On January 30th 1988, to Dr. Goldman and his wife, a son, Nicholas Goldman.

HARRISON - On January 13th, at the Finsbury Park Hospital, Cambridge, to Alison (nee Harrison) and Michael, a son, Philip Edward, a brother for Adam.

MING - On January 29th, to Dr. Ming and his wife, a daughter, Charlotte.

MOLESWORTH - On January 29th, to Amanda and Simon, a daughter, Cecilia, a sister to Tommy.

MAHRE - On January 29th, in Oxford, to Dr. Mahre and his wife, a daughter, Caitlin Ruth.

SHREE - On January 29th, to Dr. Shree and his wife, a son, James Paul.

SLOAN - On January 29th, to Dr. Sloan and his wife, a daughter, Olivia Rosemary.

SPINK - On January 26th, to Henrietta (nee Spink) and Michael, a son, Thomas Paul.

STANTON - On January 29th, to Jane (nee Stanton) and Paul, a son, Thomas Paul.

UNRUHART - On January 29th, to Dr. Unruhart and his wife, a son, Christopher.

WALLIS - On January 31st 1988, at Princess Mary's RAF Hospital, Haslemere, to Dr. Wallis and his wife, a son, James Edward.

WINTOUR - On February 1st, to Anne and Patrick, a son.

DEATHS

ATFIELD - On January 29th 1988, at the Ipswich Hospital, Margaret, widow of Dr. Atfield, died at the age of 79.

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TECHNOLOGY

Worry in the City as firms face technology deadline

By Matthew May

Since last October the most visible face of technology in world stock markets has been computerized trading, particularly in the US, and how far it affected the severity of the slump.

But the City faces a far more immediate problem with its technology as firms dealing in securities now have only three months before complying with the Financial Services Act that will require regular and detailed information about their activities.

Whereas before Big Bang all the talk was of deregulation in the City now it is of regulation and it is the changes this requires to City computer systems that are causing many dealers to protest that they will be unable to meet the end of April deadline.

At that time firms will have to provide detailed reports of their business to the authorities every fortnight and will



From deregulation to regulation: Can City computers be reorganized in time?

also have to prove a variety of checks are in place, for example that they are monitoring trading positions against capital.

The requirements come through the Securities Association, the largest of several self-regulatory organizations for the financial sector, which last month got its rule book approved by the Securities and Investment Board which oversees the various groups.

It removed one hurdle that many City firms hoped would delay the need to reorganize their computer systems by April.

The amount of time and expense means that firms not already well on the way to rewriting their computer software could face an almost impossible task.

What is surprising to many

involved in putting computer systems into the City has been the lack of financial control and management information systems that — apart from assisting in providing the information required by April — would in many other industries be considered essential for internal use.

While companies often lavished money on technology for their dealers, equivalent

systems for internal monitoring have often come well behind.

Complying with the spirit of the Act "is no big deal if you are running your shop properly," says Simon Orme, group marketing director of Hoskyns, who is particularly involved in City computer systems.

The problems come where rules have to be interpreted. "At a manual level you can get away with reading between the lines," he says, "but not at a technical level because you can't write software to behave that way."

Traders argue that the rule book is in complex legal language and are worried whether their interpretation will be correct but also, says Mr Orme, "people have been waiting to see which way the wind would blow" hoping, as they did before Big Bang, that the date would be postponed.

PERSPECTIVE

A rare animal fighting the cause of R & D

Professor William Gosling, technical director of Plessey, describes himself as a "rare animal", a man who spent many years in academia and now finds himself in industry championing the cause of research and development.

A visiting professor in communications engineering at Southampton University, he tells an anecdote about a "very distinguished" professor describing the distinctions among research funds a few years ago. "There are three kinds of research money," said the professor. "Government or alpha money, private foundation or beta money and industrial or gamma money — but don't touch that."

Professor Gosling tells the story to illustrate the wide gulf that once existed between industry and the universities, a gulf which has been bridged through the help of government-sponsored programmes.

He believes good communications links are now in place through the efforts of the Science and Engineering Research Council and the £350 million government-sponsored Alvey programme, an ambitious attempt to make British high-technology companies capable of competing on equal terms with Japan and the US.

Alvey is drawing to a close, but perhaps surprisingly, Professor Gosling welcomes the moves in the recent DTI White Paper to limit direct government money for high-tech research and development. "The trouble with direct government subsidies for research," he said, "is that it is very difficult to know where to put it."

Lord Young's revamped DTI chose, instead, to try to push companies such as Plessey to build better links with their European counterparts through the Esprit programme and to spend more of their own money.

"It was right," he said, "to put their backs behind Esprit to give British industry the opportunity to collaborate in Europe." But he believes the Government still has a large role to play. There should be tax incentives for money spent on research and development, he says, together with a public disclosure of the money in a company's accounts.

Government bodies, such as the Ministry of Defence, could be more "adventurous" in their implicit support of high technology. "For

example," said Professor Gosling, "the Government could guarantee to buy a certain amount of a new product."

"It would not require lots of money, but it would give the manufacturer a help towards the minimum market size he needs to launch the product."

These moves would also help the financial institutions foster a healthier attitude towards long-term funding of research, says Professor Gosling.

Plessey is making a brave effort to become one of the world's largest firms making ASICs, a type of silicon chip specially designed for a single purpose or customer.

It has built a £60 million state-of-the-art chip factory just outside Plymouth and last December bought the chip manufacturing arm of Ferranti. There is much play for semiconductor analysts believe the world ASIC market will grow in the next few years to be bigger than that for any other type of silicon chip. It is estimated the market will be worth \$7.4 billion in 1990.

Though the traditional virtues of ever-smaller internal dimensions on the chip and ever-faster operation will continue to be crucial, Professor Gosling believes the ease with which ASICs can be designed will be critical. It is possible to make massive chips today with millions of internal electrical connections, but it is not feasible to verify their operation before they become defunct, Professor Gosling said.

Plessey has been working on this problem for four years and Professor Gosling explained that it has beaten all its rivals, including IBM, in building a computer program that designs chips which automatically test themselves.

"I've been to all the major electronics companies in the world," he said, "and it's quite clear they have nothing to compete with us."

All this technology is, however, for nought, without its earning money. Professor Gosling admits that in the past the British have not been successful at developing and marketing good scientific ideas. The next 12 months will tell whether he has managed to preach his new gospel successfully throughout Plessey.



Professor William Gosling, above, of Plessey, talks to Simon Parry

New demand for development staff

JOBSCE

By Caroline Berman

Many small companies specializing in developing communications equipment are now springing up, all hoping to fill some niche in the market. These companies provide connections between different kinds of computers or between different communication standards. One thing they have in common is that they are demanding high-calibre development staff.

John Staley, executive recruitment manager at the Smith & Co. recruitment agency, says that over the last few years many such small companies have been spawned from the big systems houses such as Logica, CAP and Systems Designers. He believes small communications companies are well-placed to develop these new products.

Without the hierarchy and infrastructure of a large company the products are developed more quickly and more competitively, so have a price/performance advantage. Mr Staley said that many of these small com-

munications companies adopt an elitist approach to recruitment, and prefer people with at least one degree. He added: "There is only a very small pool of people with specialized data communications knowledge from which we recruit." To make up the deficit, he does the "milk round" of new graduates straight from university and business schools.

Anne Campbell, managing director of Sovereign Appointments, which specializes in communications jobs, also said there has been increased demand from recent start-up companies for development staff, particularly with X.25 and SNA experience.

"Small companies are taking a fresh look at how data can be manipulated and transferred without being constrained by a particular manufacturer's approach," she said. "The data-communications market is developing so quickly that those with good ideas can make money."

A communications company called 3Net, which started year ago with £1.25 million of venture capital, is developing a product intended to connect wide area networks into

ISDN networks, and is looking for software and hardware development staff. John Wratton, 3Net's software engineering manager, seeks designers of communications equipment and software with three to four years' experience. The pay is £16,500-£18,000 for a designer and £20,000 plus for a senior designer. There is a development team of two, and this will expand to six by mid-year.

Mr Wratton needs people with data-communications experience who know about the internals of the equipment. They may be systems programmers or communications systems programmers, or people who have been working on interface products to SNA, DECnet or X.25.

He added: "If they join us now they have the benefit of starting from a clean sheet, or one with some small grey marks on it, and going right through to the finished product."

The Networking Centre was set up in 1985 with government and venture-capital backing to do conformance testing for open systems international (OSI) standard systems. But now it is moving into develop-

ment of products such as routers, gateways and bridges. There are 38 staff but this will grow to 50 over the next three months.

The Networking Centre is looking for nine software development engineers and customer service engineers. These people will require knowledge of data communications, Unix, C, local area networks and transport layer protocols plus wide area networks such as X.21 and X.25.

David Allen, development director of the Networking Centre, said: "The benefits are that the software engineers will be joining the leading world experts in OSI protocols."

It is difficult and expensive to find the right people and Mr Allen has a big problem recruiting engineers with OSI experience. So four of the nine will be recruited straight from university, and trained within the company. Those with five years' experience get between £18,000 and £25,000; new graduates £10,000 to £12,000. "We look," said Mr Allen, "for intelligence, enthusiasm and, of course, the ability to communicate."

EVENTS

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■ **Electron & BBC Micro Show**, March 18-20, UMIST,

Manchester (0625-878888)
■ **Cadcam 88**, March 22-24, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (01-608 1161)
■ **Visit Recruitment Fair**, March 25-26, Cumberland Hotel, London, (01-262 1234)

■ **Computer Recruitment Fair**, March 25-26, Rainbow Rooms, London (0491-681010)
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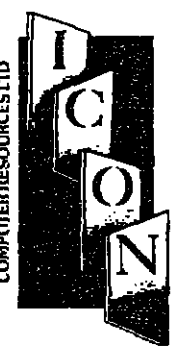
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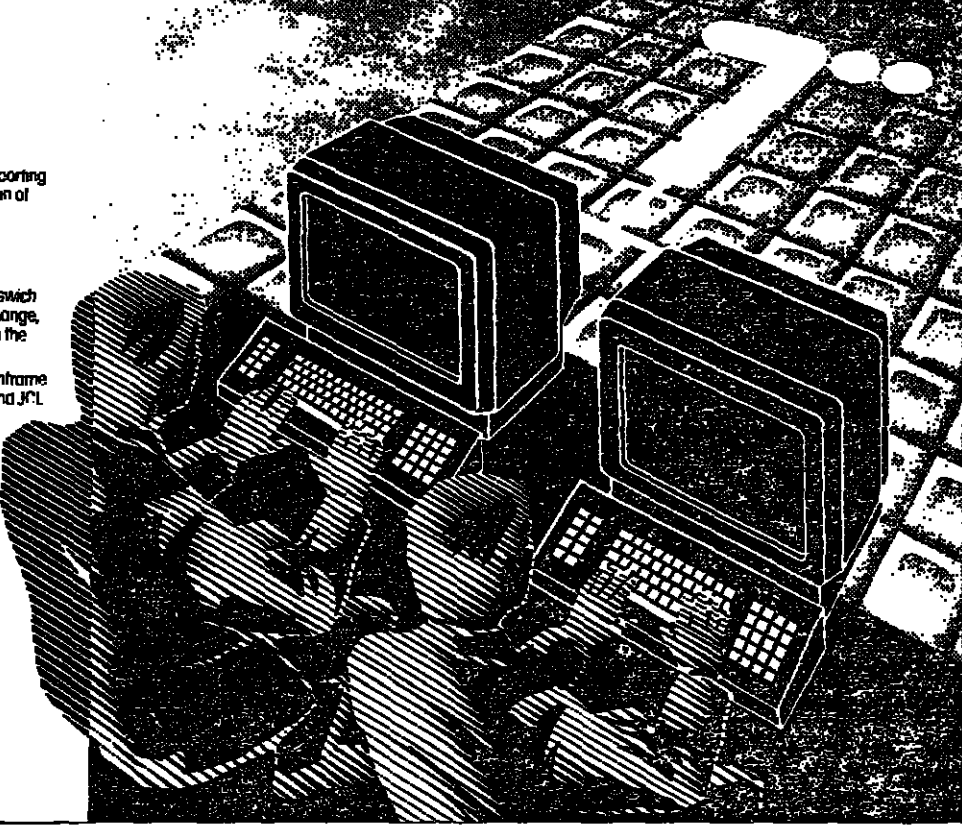
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TECHNOLOGY

First of the nylon legs

Robert Matthews looks at the research story behind the discovery of nylon, which brought about a fashion revolution 50 years ago and finds there are still lessons for today

Fifty years ago, Du Pont announced the discovery of nylon, the protein-like chemical that has had a profound impact on 20th century life.

Although the material may have been around for a long time, there are several hints to be gleaned from the story of its development about how "blue skies" research can pay off mightily.

In 1928, Du Pont put Wallace Carothers, a young chemistry teacher fresh from Harvard, in charge of a team investigating polymer chemistry, the science of long chains of molecules.

The aim of the research was simply to investigate how and why some small molecules link up with one another to become long strings, or polymers. Mr Carothers was not pressured by the company to come up with a commercial product; indeed, he became sceptical that the company would continue to pour money into such basic research.

However, the company continued to pay up, in all \$27 million over 11 years, even through the Depression, arguing that something was bound to come out of it one day. The contrast with so many of today's accountant-dominated research and development efforts is striking.

Du Pont was well repaid for having the confidence to give its scientists relative carte blanche. Neoprene, a rubbery compound used in building, was followed by nylon, launched in 1938 at a national women's conference on industrial research.

The audience clapped loudly at the announcement that nylon could be used to make run-resistant stockings, but none of the national newspapers made much of it. Even the company's local newspaper relegated the story to page 11, and on Wall Street Du Pont stock fell by a point and a half.

Potential users of the material were far more enthusiastic, not hesitating to invest



The public's first view of nylon stockings at New York's World Fair in 1939

tigate what nylon could do for their businesses. Shortly after the 1938 World Fair in New York, near-riots broke out when nylon stockings reached the shops.

Du Pont is still reaping the benefit: "What we call the 'nylon enterprise', a broad array of businesses associated with nylon, remains one of Du Pont's most important businesses. Nylon and its extended

family of related products can be found in thousands of applications", says Richard Hecker, chairman of Du Pont.

Another product of what must seem to many industrial scientists today as an age of enlightenment is Teflon, a further Du Pont development celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.

Discovered by accident by

one of the company's scientists, who was investigating refrigeration gases, Teflon took 20 years of study before Du Pont were able to mass-produce products exploiting its non-stick properties.

Many research directors would doubt that they could keep their accounts away from a research project for that amount of time today.

Now for the era of 'vox pop' mobile phones

By Barry Fox

The consumer electronics industry is always looking for a new bandwagon. There have been video games, digital calculators, home computers, domestic video and compact disc audio. There has never yet been a real consumer boom in communications.

Citizens' Band radio flopped. Few people get excited about buying a new telephone or answering machine while the price of cellular phones is geared to the business market. This year could see the start of something new in home communications, which is potentially as big as home video.

The DTI has allocated a small band of radio frequencies for a second generation of cordless telephones.

But CT2 is not just another cordless phone, to free house-holders and business users from the usual trailing handset wire. It has the potential to become a vox pop mobile phone.

Several companies are planning to launch phones based on this system this year, for £200 to £300. First in the field could be Shaye Communications, a small firm which grew out of Sir Clive Sinclair's research company.

Shaye is now backed by Fred Olsen, his Timsa group, and Mobira of Finland. Its closest competitor is Libera, backed by Ferranti, while British Telecom has contracted STC to work on CT2.

Currently cellular phone subscribers, on Cellnet or Vodafone, can make or take calls, while on the move almost anywhere in the UK. But the price is high; around £1000 and upwards for the equipment, £50 for signing on to a network, a monthly standing access charge of £25, and mobile calls billed at up to 33p a minute.

Meanwhile, anyone with a domestic telephone line can buy a cordless telephone for £100 or less. Under the DTI's existing regulations, the transmitter power is limited to 10 mW, which reduces communication distance to 50 metres in a building and at best 1 km outside.

CT2 is an all-digital system.



Portable handsets like this could cost as little as £200, opening up far wider marketing possibilities

Speech is transmitted as coded pulses. This gives better sound quality and higher security. The new system will work in a 4MHz slice of the UHF radio spectrum. It can accommodate 40 channels.

Because the permitted transmission power is low, — 10 mW — like conventional cordless phones — and because the frequency is UHF (like cellular) CT2 signals will travel only very short distances.

This is, however, an advantage, not a disadvantage; the same frequencies can be reused every few hundred metres without interference.

Current estimates are that the 40-channel band will support 5000 handset users per square kilometre.

Whereas cellular radio and existing cordless phones use two separate channels, one for each half of the conversation, CT2 makes do with a single channel for each two-way conversation.

Each handset will have a unique digital code number. This will let owners use their handsets away from home, when within range of public base stations which BT, Mercury and private operators plan to provide.

These base stations — to be

called Phonepoints or Telepoints — will be permanently connected to the telephone network. Telephone subscribers will use them to make calls, with the cost billed to their home or office account.

The base stations will be in airport lounges, railway stations, department stores, high streets and even Underground stations. The DTI's technical specification for CT2 is deliberately loose, to let individual makers develop their own proprietary coding systems.

Both Shaye and Libera envisage multistandard public base stations, which can cope with more than one type of handset, though neither has spoken yet about what technical tricks they must play to let owners of CT2 handsets call a home phone with the same number.

Although CT2 handsets will not be able to receive calls while on the move, the handset may incorporate a pager. This would beep and display a message telling the owner which number to call when within range of a public base station.

Those who want to make and take calls anywhere will have to pay the extra for a cellular phone.

IBM shake-up puts in young managers

From David Sanger in New York

In a sweeping restructuring intended to reverse three years of disappointing performance, IBM has created five new, highly-autonomous organizations that will be responsible for all of the company's innovation, design and manufacturing.

The moves are intended to decentralize the world's largest computer manufacturer, giving far more responsibility to a younger generation of managers and significantly reducing the role of IBM's New York headquarters in the day-to-day

operations of the company.

Under the plan, thousands of IBM employees will switch jobs or find themselves working for new managers as part of an effort to put new spark into a company that insiders say is bloated and that customers complain has often not kept up with competition.

"This is a fundamental change in the way we do our business, as significant as any we have ever made," John Akers, the company's chairman, said. "If it works, it will make our employees more entrepreneurial, more accountable and more independent."

With last week's move, the

company that has until recently ranked among the most advanced in the world for its management prowess, joins a growing list of American corporations that are pushing responsibility for decision-making far down the chain of command.

If IBM succeeds, it will probably ratify a management style for huge corporations that calls for an extremely small headquarters staff — so that all but the most critical strategic decisions can be made by the same people who deal with the company's customers.

Presumably, the IBM

organization responsible for personal computers could now decide by itself to bring out a new model rather than justifying it to headquarters. But the corporate headquarters would retain responsibility for setting overall standards, including seeing that the company's products contain state-of-the-art technology.

But analysts were doubtful that the restructuring, which comes on the heels of enormous turmoil and belt-tightening at IBM, will pay off quickly.

IBM's problems, they main-

tain, are still rooted in the linking of incompatible computer systems. The company's giant mainframes, that are the lifeblood of multinational corporations, still cannot communicate smoothly with its mid-range machines and with personal computers.

Speeding up the pace of innovation alone, analysts give warning, may not ease the confusion among computer users that many blame for IBM's slower growth. Some, even within IBM, fear it could reduce coordination among product managers at a time when products must be more closely linked.

UK out in cold after changes in Moscow

By Andrew Wiseman

British firms trying to break into the Soviet computer market could find it more difficult in future because of a new enterprise set up in Moscow, called Intereurope.

It has four partners: two from the Soviet Union and two from Western Europe. The Soviet Union is represented by the Ministry of Higher and Specialized Education, and the State Committee for the Agro-Industrial Associations (which coordinates all farms in a particular area and the technical services on its territories).

Both organizations are in great need of modern computers, either for training purposes or to improve the efficiency of the country's agriculture.

The two Western firms are the French company Anral Utech, a computer manufacturer, and the Italian firm Delta Trading, with its wide-spread commercial knowledge and a strong sales division.

Intereurope plans to specialize in turnkey computer systems. Equipment will be imported and adapted to Soviet needs with the necessary software developed locally. It also intends to set up an efficient maintenance service, the proverbial Achilles heel of all Soviet enterprises.

There appear to be two reasons which prompted the Russians to launch Intereurope. Both are connected with the backwardness of the

country's computer industry.

The flood of new information technologies from abroad was beginning to engulf the relatively small number of Soviet experts, who were finding it increasingly more difficult to judge which of the hundreds of systems on offer to go for. Because they often made mistakes, the country sustained heavy losses caused by "irrational imports."

The Russians are keen to reduce them, while, at the same time, eager to promote the export of Soviet-designed computer software.

The other reason was the universal shortage of software throughout the country, coupled with the chronic inefficiency of computer maintenance services. This, for obvious reasons, applied particularly to personal computers manufactured abroad.

Although the enterprise has been operating for only a few weeks, it has already checked orders from some important customers, which include the Merchant Navy Ministry, the Moscow public health authority, and the state circus.

Last week the Technology section published a photograph of a Pledge aerosol in connection with an article on limiting damage to the ozone layer. Manufacturers Johnson Wax say its products do not contain chlorofluorocarbons and intend to put the phrase "contains no propellant alleged to damage ozone" on its aerosols.

A microscopic view of technological advance

By Robert Matthews

Scientists at the University of Michigan have built the world's first positron transmission microscope, a machine which they believe will become an important addition to the armoury of instruments available to technologists.

"Positrons can provide information complementary to electrons to give us a better idea of what is going on in the materials," says Dr James Van House of the university's physics department, and one of the machine's inventors.

However, the price for the extra information is high. Positrons last for just a few billionths of a second in most materials before disappearing again. The microscope therefore has to have a special source of the particles, in the form of a lump of an isotope of the chemical element sodium, Na-22.

Dr Van House says that the sample of the isotope, now being used as a source costs around \$20,000, and that to get the same resolution as an electron microscope a source costing around \$120,000 would be needed.

Experimental work has shown that the microscope can resolve objects as small as one-thousandth of a millimetre, and that atomic-level resolution is feasible, says Dr Van House. He sees one area of application for the instrument being the study of defects, microscopic flaws in the crystal structure of materials such as metal alloys.

The ability to use electron and positron microscopes in parallel also opens up the possibility of chemical analysis of the composition of the surfaces of materials, says Dr Van House.

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shed 5.30 Design Matters 6.00
 outside 6.30 Cosby Show 7.00
 Anybody Seith 7.30 Awyr lach 8.00
 Grant 8.50 Bowen A' Banner
 9 Anywidd Fyrrd 10.20 Girls On
 10.50 Black Forest Cmc 11.40
 to 12.25am Closedown.

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1.35 Concert: BBC Scottish SO

5.55 Shipping Forecast 6.00
News Briefing; Weather
6.10 Farming Today 6.25
Prayer (s)

4.05 The Local Network: Neil
Walker and David Clayton.
 link up with local radio
 stations around the country

6 News 3:30-4:00 Country
7:30 In Loving Memory 8:00-9:30
11: Carry On Up The Jungle
1:30am Jobfinder 1:30 Closedown.

BC Starts: 9:30am Schools
12:00 Business Daily 12:30pm
Teen-to-One 1:00 Open College
10 Heritage 3:00 Modern World 4:10
Cablecast 4:20 Haric 5:00 Be-
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Coke 6:30 Cosby Show 7:00
Jordan Smith 7:30 Awyr Lach 8:00
Fant 8:30 Bowen A's Banner
9:00 American Flyrod 10:00 Girs On
10:10 Black Forest Cam 11:40
12:30-12:55am

5.55 Shipping Forecast 6.00
News Briefing; Weather
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Prayer (s)

4.05 The Local Network: Neil
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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

Stalin's 'disciple' buried in secret

From Christopher Walker
Moscow

Georgiy Malenkov, once Stalin's right-hand man and a key figure in administering the dictator's bloody purges, died in Moscow last month and was buried without public notification. He was 86.

Malenkov served as Prime Minister for two years after Stalin's death in 1953 but proved no match for Nikita Khrushchev in the power struggle which followed the dictator's death. He was expelled from the party leadership in 1957, accused by Khrushchev of plotting against the party.

The death was confirmed yesterday by Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the chief Kremlin spokesman, who said Malenkov had died 10 days earlier. It had not been announced at the request of relatives, he said.

Mr Gerasimov told reporters that Malenkov had already been buried in a Moscow cemetery. No details of his burial appeared in the media.

During Stalin's last years, Malenkov — described in the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia* as a "true disciple" of the dictator — appeared the man best placed to become his successor.

But Malenkov, who had been in charge of party cadres at the height of the Stalin

purges, was outmanoeuvred by Khrushchev, who rapidly emerged as the dominant figure in the party and the country, having been appointed the party's First Secretary in September.

Immediately after Stalin's death, Malenkov took over as Prime Minister, but within only nine days had lost the other part of his power base when he resigned from the Secretariat of the party's Central Committee.

In February, 1955, Malenkov resigned as Prime Minister, although he kept a place on the Praesidium, the equivalent of the present-day Politburo. But by June, 1957, the differences came into the open after an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow Khrushchev by Stalin's followers.

Malenkov was dismissed from the Praesidium as part of the "anti-party group" and subsequently also expelled from the party.

He was then banished to the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan as manager of a hydro-electric power plant. Khrushchev was quoted as saying at the time: "He never could make up his mind. Now he is director of a power plant. This is very easy, because the plant is fully automated."

Following Khrushchev's overthrow in 1964, Malenkov was back in Moscow working as an adviser to Gorbachev, the State Planning Committee. He retired a few years later and was granted a comfortable flat, a country dacha and a sizeable state pension.

Nurses would support NHS shakeup



Nurses protesting over allowances in Manchester: Now nine out of ten say they are dissatisfied with Mrs Thatcher's handling of the health service.

Continued from page 1
in the attitudes of those who will have to play a key part in implementing any health service reforms.

When some of the options mooted for improving the health service were put to nurses they were all rejected by large majorities.

Only one nurse in five believed in the expansion of the private health sector as a help and 56 per cent opposed the idea of giving tax relief on private medical insurance, with 21 per cent in favour.

Eighty per cent of nurses disapproved of the idea of a comprehensive private health insurance scheme to replace the NHS. Nurses came down against the idea of charging hospital

patients for their food by 84 per cent to 11 per cent.

The direct political fallout from the long-running controversy over health service finances is less than most Conservatives would have anticipated.

Asked how they would vote in a general election tomorrow, nurses divided as 46 per cent Labour, 32 per cent Conservative and 20 per cent Liberal or SDP. At the general election they split 38 per cent Conservative, 36 per cent Labour and 25 per cent Alliance.

Clearly the political battle on the health service has won support for Labour. While Labour support is up 10 per cent among nurses the Conservatives have dropped only 6 per cent, with the

SDP/Liberals also down by five points.

MORI's interviewers showed nurses a list of factors which it has been said could persuade nurses not to strike. They were asked to list the two or three measures which they thought would be most effective to that end.

The concern of those working in the health service for the standards of the service was shown by the fact that 79 per cent of nurses included "more money for the NHS generally" in their list of priorities compared with the 64 per cent who called for more pay for all nurses.

The only other suggestion winning more than 50 per cent support was that of the

provision of more nurses for the health service.

Retention of special duty payments at existing levels was named by 27 per cent and more pay for nurses trained in special skills rated no more than 25 per cent, perhaps because they remain in a minority in the NHS.

All opposition parties, and some Conservatives, have been pressing the Government to guarantee to pay in full the eventual nurses pay award by the independent review body.

But this rated surprisingly

low as a priority with nurses. Only 15 per cent put it in their list of key items.

Not surprisingly, only two nurses in every hundred believe Mrs Thatcher is right in talking only to the Royal College of Nursing and think that she should be prepared to talk personally to all the nurses' unions.

MORI interviewed a national quota sample of 518 unqualified and qualified nurses (including auxiliaries) in 39 sampling points across Great Britain. Fieldwork was conducted face to face on January 30 and 31.

©MORI/The Times

Q. On this list are some factors which some people have said could persuade nurses not to strike. Which two or three do you think would be most effective at persuading nurses not to strike?

More money for the NHS generally 79%

More pay for all nurses 64%

More nurses for the NHS 54%

Retention of the special duty payments at existing levels 27%

More pay for nurses trained in special skills 25%

Government commitment to pay the Independent Review Body Award 15%

Better ancillary support for nurses 8%

More money for your own hospital 4%

Other 2%



Q. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of each of the following relating to health service?	APPROVE		DIS-APPROVE		Neither	Don't know
	Strongly	Tend to	Strongly	Tend to		
Expansion of the private health sector	2%	19%	28%	31%	18%	3%
Charging hospital patients for food	2%	9%	59%	25%	5%	-
Giving tax relief on private medical insurance	4%	17%	31%	25%	15%	8%
The no-strike policy of the RCN	23%	21%	22%	22%	10%	2%
A comprehensive private health insurance scheme to replace the NHS	2%	6%	56%	24%	7%	5%

Source: MORI

More trees uprooted in worst gales since October

Hurricane winds and heavy rain cause chaos

By Andrew Morgan

The strongest winds since last October's storms brought chaos yesterday to western and southern Britain, with trees uprooted and torrential rain causing widespread flooding.

One man died and another was seriously injured when a tree fell on them in high winds in North Wales.

The tree hit Mr Brian Kelly, aged 50, from Blackley, Manchester, while he was working in a ditch beside the A55 at Aber, near Bangor. His workmate, Mr Hugh Williams, aged 30, from Pwllheli, was taken to hospital in Bangor with serious injuries.

A 111mph gust of wind was recorded at an airfield near Caernar-

fon and one of 77mph at RAF Valley on Anglesey.

In the south-west, where there were hurricane-force gusts of more than 70mph, the oil rig Sovereign Explorer drifted in mountainous seas 40 miles off Lands' End with 36 men on board. A steel line had broken while it was

being towed from the North Sea to the Gulf of Mexico.

The gales and rain left a trail of chaos in Cornwall and Devon, with Falmouth Bay and Tor Bay crisscrossed with ships seeking shelter. In Helston, north Cornwall, some homes were under 4ft of water. In Penryn flooding destroyed an ancient holy well.

Several roads were cut off with flooding after more than an inch of rain fell on waterlogged countryside. The Otter, Clyn, Ax and Culm rivers in east Devon burst their banks, leaving acres of farmland under water.

The Severn burst its banks and the Severn bridge was closed to high-sided vehicles after 50mph gusts were recorded. Floods badly affected Tewkesbury, in Gloucestershire, and west Somerset. Police sealed off a road which was flooded after a river burst its banks at Bradford Abbas, near Yeovil. Crops were drowned and livestock moved to high ground.

Mr Tony Gibson, secretary of the National Farmers' Union in Somerset, said: "It has been exceptionally bad. We fear that the combination of rain

and wind could kill many of the newborn lambs. Any snow now would finish us off."

Many homes were without electricity as the high winds brought down power cables. The worst damage occurred near Salcombe, south Devon, when two homes were struck by lightning within five minutes.

In the first incident at Wells farm, Chillingham, lightning struck telephone cables which set light to pipe lagging, but the owners managed to put out the blaze. The fire brigade was later called to a bungalow at Hope Cove, wrecked by a lightning bolt.

London Weather Centre forecasts a slight reduction in wind speed today, but gusts of more than 75mph are expected in the Channel.

Channel hopping around the world

As if in rehearsal for the impending debate on the televising of Parliament, the Commons appeared to have an unseen figure mucking around with the remote-control programme switch. Just as viewers had got the hang of one programme, another would begin on an entirely different subject, and then another, and then another.

Mr Peter Bottomley, recently declared a "lunatic in swimming pants" by the distinguished editor of *The Literary Review*, was first up. Viewers peered avidly for signs of madness. At first, it seemed as if they might be disappointed: if he was wearing swimming pants at all, he had cunningly placed them underneath his conventional long trousers. Though peculiar, his little-lad haircut, his all-black digital watch and his John Lennon glasses, even considered collectively, do not constitute sufficient evidence for out-and-out insanity.

He smiles more often and less shyly than most of his colleagues, but that is to his credit. His tendency to bite his nails and to lace up his shoes while facing urgent cross-questioning is unusual, but less unusual than a tendency to lace up his nails or to bite his shoes.

Nevertheless, the avidity with which he promotes the sale of unpleasant non-alcoholic beers and lagers does suggest a twinge of loopiness. Proudly declaring that one company now has a non-alcoholic beer on draught, he urged members to decline to be driven by anyone who had been drinking and, as hosts, to discourage people from consuming alcohol.

Luckily for Mr Bottomley, the intervention of his fellow Transport Minister, Mr David Mitchell, acted as a diversion to the massed ranks of psychiatrists beaming down. Asked whether crowded trains might have an extra carriage added, Mr Mitchell replied that this would mean extending all platforms.

As the question of unbalance hung in the balance, the channel was switched to Questions to the Attorney-General. A Conservative backbencher asked Sir Patrick Mayhew how long it would be before action was taken against Wright and

Cavendish. No one quite knew where to look. Though Conservative backbenchers are not selected for their day-to-day diligence, priding themselves on taking the longer view, it seemed surprising that the occasional news broadcast on the Wright affair had not invaded his consciousness. Would his opposite number on the Labour benches now stand up and demand a full inquiry on the disgraceful allegations concerning Mr Profumo?

Again, the jerky finger jabbed at the remote control button, and here was 10 minutes with the Minister of Overseas Development. "I think that's the first question I've ever had about Panama," he smiled, and he couldn't quite remember whether we had given aid to their rain-forests. "I don't believe we have — I'll look it up." Another switch, and up plumped the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a statement on Britoil.

Following his short statement, the Chancellor snapped vigorously at those impertinent enough to question him, accusing Mr John Smith of schizophrenia and suggesting that if Mr Malcolm Bruce was really aiming for the leadership of the new party, he'd have to do better than that. Smith. And here was Mr Benn the Flowerpot Man bop-a-doping about the Miners Strike, the Nurses Strike and Government Conspiracies. Switch. Mr Chris Mullen was complaining about "the extreme difficulty of persuading British judges to admit to a mistake". Switch. A Labour backbencher was making a point about the Strathclyde Regional Council.

Barely an hour had passed since Mr Bottomley had first spoken of the joys of non-alcoholic draught beer. Since then, viewers had been transported through crowded trains, *Spycatcher*, the rain-forests of Panama, the oil fields of the North Sea, the miners' strike, the Birmingham Six and lots, lots more. Were this put out for tender from TV companies, it might just be accepted by the most fast-moving Channel 4 rock programme, but only with the addition of heavy guitar backing and avant-garde computer graphics.

Craig Brown

Anderton received into the Catholic Church

By Our Religious Affairs Editor

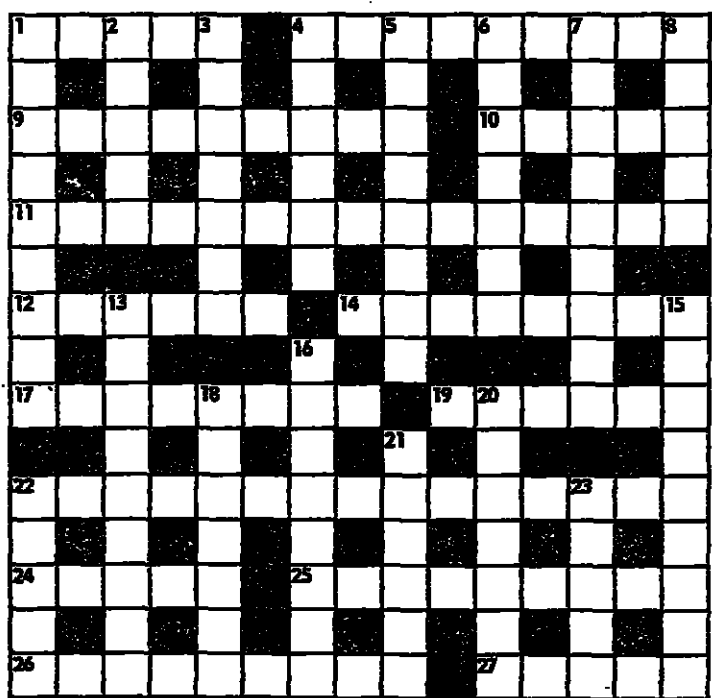
Mr James Anderton, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, was received into the Roman Catholic Church last Friday evening. He was baptised an Anglican, and was at one time an Independent Methodist lay preacher.

His occasional outspoken remarks, particularly his claim that AIDS was a divine judgement on homosexuals, have in the past led to differences with the Greater Manchester Police Authority. A special disciplinary committee of the

authority is expected to report later this month, after investigating remarks attributed to Mr Anderton that some criminals should be flogged.

The ceremony admitting him to communion in the Roman Catholic Church — the word "conversion" is no longer officially used — was held at St Dunstan's Catholic Church, St. Monica, Manchester, and was conducted by the former Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford, the Rt Rev Thomas Holland.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,581



- ACROSS**
- County supporter, a venomous type (5).
 - One's intent, say, to be making off thus? (9).
 - An ideal CO, worried by this person's indifference... (9).
 - drank heavily on return to RHQ (5).
 - Scrub Mr Grimes, and win all the prizes (4,1,3,5).
 - How the trendy and robust get inspiration? (6).
 - Misplaced love is found in the Scriptures, he writes (8).
 - Old Italian, or American, in a kind of trance (8).
 - In films, agents are turned in the secret service (6).
 - Vocal problem not welcome to a Parisian gourmet? (4,2,3,6).
 - Gold that's left in the window (5).
 - Reference to one represented on stage (9).
 - Performed with the fingers, is this a stimulant to the tucker? (9).
 - Grub, in spectacular variety! (5).

- DOWN**
- Commedia dell'arte 25 like a dove (9).
 - Stand for the king, surrounded by pages (5).
 - It's a great trouble for the lady's maid (7).
 - Carry on following river in an intense way (6).
 - One conspiring with Scotsman to supply spice (8).
 - Her hat-making is German in style (7).
 - Oddly empiric directions inaccurately expressed (9).
 - General appearance of a sheep in its second year? (3-2).
 - A distressing task for farmers (9).
 - Restaurant has to turn up the gas under rising pastry (9).
 - Wicked-sounding state of sailors (9).
 - Placed hunter's bag inside this pan (7).
 - An outcast, he — a slim eccentric (7).
 - Broadcasts the races (6).
 - Little woman carried by father and daughter in Norwegian waters (5).
 - Fish eater takes head off the pin (5).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- HIPSHOT**
- A fast draw
 - A sing of Bourbon
 - A deformed hip
- PARVANTIMY**
- Musical dislike
 - Uncooked hominy grits
 - Mean-mindedness
- MIRLIGOS**
- Disinfect
 - No trumps at contract Whist
 - A North African fruit
- MISCIATION**
- A misquote
 - Pseudo-science
 - Finding oil by magnetism

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,580

ACROSS: 1. BUCKLE, 2. BUCKLE, 3. BUCKLE, 4. BUCKLE, 5. BUCKLE, 6. BUCKLE, 7. BUCKLE, 8. BUCKLE, 9. BUCKLE, 10. BUCKLE, 11. BUCKLE, 12. BUCKLE, 13. BUCKLE, 14. BUCKLE, 15. BUCKLE, 16. BUCKLE, 17. BUCKLE, 18. BUCKLE, 19. BUCKLE, 20. BUCKLE, 21. BUCKLE, 22. BUCKLE, 23. BUCKLE, 24. BUCKLE, 25. BUCKLE, 26. BUCKLE, 27. BUCKLE.

WEATHER

A very deep depression off north-east Scotland, maintaining generally stormy conditions across Britain. It will be showery, with some brighter, drier intervals, mostly in the east. Some showers will be heavy and prolonged, perhaps with hail and thunder, and may fall as snow on higher ground. Severe westerly gales are likely in southern and central regions. Outlook: Continuing unsettled and windy.

ABROAD

MOONDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fog; fog, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, sleet; t, thunder.					
Aleppo	15	59	Madrid	12	54
Algeria	11	55	Malaga	15	59
Amman	12	56	Moscow	18	64
Antwerp	13	55	Munich	18	64
Bahia	15	59	Nairobi	18	64
Bombay	15	59	Paris	18	64
Buenos Aires	15	59	Rome	18	64
Calcutta	15	59	Sao Paulo	18	64
Cardiff	15	59	Seoul	18	64
Cebu	15	59	Singapore	18	64
Colon	15	59	Tokyo	18	64
Dublin	15	59	Toronto	18	64
Hong Kong	15	59	Winnipeg	18	64
London	15	59	Zurich	18	64

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Scarborough	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Blackpool	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Manchester	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Leeds	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Sheffield	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Birmingham	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Cardiff	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Belfast	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
London	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Edinburgh	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
Glasgow	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1

* Denotes figures not available. Times are Sunday's figures.

THE POUND

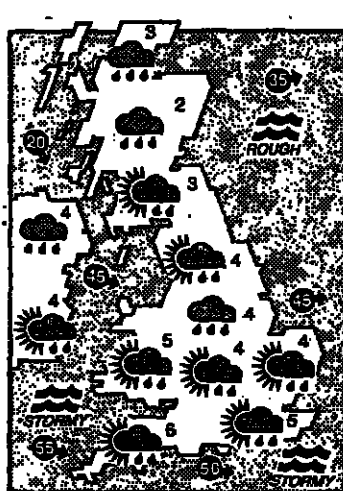
	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56
Canada	1.27	1.27	1.27	1.27	1.27	1.27	1.27
Denmark	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18
France	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18
Germany	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18
Italy	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18
Japan	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18
Netherlands	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18
Sweden	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18
Switzerland	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18
US Dollar	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Unfavourable rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 103.3 (December)

London: The FT index closed down 12.6 at 4225.1

AM



MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (36F). Rain: 24 hr to 8 pm, 0.2 in. 0.24 in. Sun: 24 hr to 8 pm, 0.5 in.

YESTERDAY

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humidity	Pressure
Belfast	7.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Blackpool	7.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Cardiff	7.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Edinburgh	7.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Glasgow	7.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
London	7.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Manchester	7.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Sheffield	7.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Winnipeg	7.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5

PM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (39F). Rain: 24 hr to 8 pm, 0.2 in. 0.24 in. Sun: 24 hr to 8 pm, 0.5 in.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

||
||
||

PART 2

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1423.1 (-12.6)
FT-SE 100
1776.9 (-13.9)
Bargains
27907 (26287)
USM (Datastream)
147.26 (-0.94)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7580 (-0.0120)
W German mark
2.9772 (+0.0107)
Trade-weighted
74.2 (-0.1)

Crean in
£14m
cash call

James Crean, the Irish industrial holding company with interests in Britain and the US, is to raise £16.5 million (£14.7 million) net via a one-for-four rights issue at 18p.

Although the company had net cash at the end of last year estimated at more than £13 million, it is known to be seeking acquisitions. The issue is seen as signalling a corporate move either here or in America.

Contrary to normal practice, Crean is not supporting its issue with a forecast of profits for the year to end-December, which are due next month. However, J&E Davy, the Dublin broker advising Crean, had forecast pretax profits of £10.5 million, up from £8.3 million in 1986. The shares fell from 38p to 35p.

Meyer buy

Meyer International, the builders' merchant and timber group, is continuing its rapid expansion with the purchase for £2.3 million of Samco, which trades as Stephensons of Oxford. Meyer shares rose 3p to 355p. *Temper, page 26*

£5m oil deal

Taylor Woodrow, the civil engineering and construction group, is selling its British oil and gas interests to Conoco Energy in a £5 million deal. The interests include stakes in 118 onshore and five offshore oilfields as well as part of Taylor Woodrow's US energy assets.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS
New York
Dow Jones 1961.21 (+2.99)
Nikkei Average 23732.32 (+13.18)
Hang Seng 2598.27 (-61.28)
Amsterdam 3221.5 (+25.0)
Sydney AO 1257.5 (-19.7)
Frankfurt
Commerzbank 1226.1 (+18.2)
Brenntag 3946.5 (+4.3)
Paris CAC 251.8 (+0.5)
Zurich S&K Gen 417.9 (+4.9)
London
FT-A All-Share 910.31 (-1.39)
FT-100 1001.44 (-7.73)
FT-250 952.8 (-8.7)
FT-500 95.38 (+1.09)
FT-1000 88.17 (-0.55)
Recent issues
Closing prices
Page 28

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS
Cap & Counties 342p (+20p)
F&L 197p (+10p)
W Runcorn 267p (+15p)
M Clark 378p (+18p)
Warrford 292p (+12p)
Ranger 292p (+12p)
Atwoods 291p (+11p)
Lac 270p (+10p)
Neslar 269p (+10p)
Eucalyptus Pulp 650p (+12p)
FALLS
Rank Organisation 613p (-11p)
Hartford 525p (-25p)
Cable & Wireless 352p (-17p)
UK Land 437p (-12p)
Next 296p (-10p)
Hamerson 342p (-10p)
Booker 388p (-10p)
Lisano 311p (-10p)
Rosehaugh 615p (-20p)
W&A Smith 'A' 311p (-12p)
Closing prices
Page 28

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 9%
3-month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 1/4-9 1/2%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%
3-month Treasury bills 5.64-5.62%
30-year bonds 10.54-10.51%
New York
Comex \$482.70-483.20

CURRENCIES

London
£/\$ 1.7580
£/DM 2.9772
£/Sfr 2.0289
£/FF 166.241
£/Yen 227.40
£/Index 74.2
Ecu 20.694724
New York
\$/£ 0.5715
DM/\$ 0.3510
Sfr/\$ 0.7020
Yen/\$ 119.35
Index/\$ 1.7580
SDR 20.71771

GOLD

London Fixing
AM \$454.85 pm \$452.70
close \$451.25-451.75 (2257.00-257.50)
New York
Comex \$482.70-483.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brut (Mar.) per 115,000 (115.32)
Denotes latest trading price
Roughen 26
Stack Market 26
Wall Street 26
Traded Oils 26
Comcast 26
City Diary 27
Appointments 26
Share Prices 26
Money Markets 26
Foreign Exch 26
Unit Traders 26
USM Prices 30

THE TIMES

Lawson gives
BP go-ahead

Britoil 'must retain
its Scottish identity'

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government signalled yesterday that it will allow BP's proposed takeover of Britoil, the Glasgow-based North Sea exploration company, provided it receives satisfactory assurances about the future of the company.

There were furious Labour protests in the Commons as Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, indicated that he is unlikely to use the Government's golden share in the company to block the takeover if his terms are met.

Mr Lawson said the Government would be holding talks this week with both BP and Britoil.

Government sources later made plain that he would be seeking assurances that the company retains a Scottish identity under BP control.

Mr Lawson also indicated to MPs that the Government would retain its golden share to ensure that any deal was kept. Any deal must take into

account what was best for Scotland and the development of the North Sea, he said.

Mr Lawson declined to give details of "the outcome which I have in mind." But he maintained, in the face of a strong Opposition attack, that past assurances by the Government over the use of the golden share had applied only to an "unacceptable" change of control.

He said: "It was quite clear from the beginning that the possibility of an acceptable change of control was there."

Challenged over whether he thought the BP bid was unacceptable, he replied: "That depends on the outcome of the discussions we shall be having. That is precisely what they are about."

Whatever the outcome of the talks, Lord Young of Gifford, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, would still be able to refer the bid to the Monopolies and

Mergers Commission.

Britoil's battle to remain independent was lost when Atlantic Richfield (Arco), the United States group, pledged its 24 per cent shareholding to BP, taking BP's share up to almost 54 per cent.

Mr John Smith, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, said that unless the Government used the special share Britoil would cease to be an independent company. He reminded Mr Lawson of his assurances when he was Secretary of State for Energy that the special share would act as a deterrent.

Mr Lawson's strongest indication that he will not block the takeover came when he remarked: "I remain anxious to have the best possible development of the UK Continental Shelf. But I do not think that it follows necessarily that that has to be secured by Britoil remaining unconnected with BP."

Oilmen will have autonomy

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

In a move designed to meet the conditions of the Government golden share in Britoil, BP is understood to be considering agreeing to operate Britoil, once it wins formal control, as a wholly owned subsidiary, keeping its head office and staff intact.

Britoil and its political supporters in Scotland have opposed the BP bid, partly because they say it would reduce job opportunities in

what is now Scotland's largest company.

BP, however, has said that by transferring its exploration activities to Glasgow it would create jobs, and its plan to retain the Britoil name and give the Glasgow operation a degree of independence from the main BP board could remove some objections.

Such a move would give BP the access to the Britoil North Sea acreage it wants, while

leaving the existing Britoil staff with a high degree of autonomy. Only big investment decisions would need reference to the main BP board in London.

BBN buy

Berry, Birch and Noble has added to its electronics interests with the acquisition of Global Specialities (UK), a measuring instrument distributor.

Weak dollar ends plan
for GEC-Philips link

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Talks have broken down between Lord Weinstock's General Electric Company (GEC) and Philips, its electrical and electronics rival in the Netherlands, which could have created the biggest medical electronics company in the world.

The deal has fallen through after 10 months of negotiations because of currency problems. It would have produced a joint venture with a combined annual turnover of £1.2 billion, producing diagnostic equipment like body scanners.

A joint statement said: "Due particularly to the fluctuations in the exchange rate of the dollar it has not proved possible to arrive at

final terms acceptable to both parties."

The GEC view was that with Philips products priced in guilders and marks but with its own Picker International medical electronics subsidiary operating in the US, a deal now would "dilute GEC's shareholder interests."

In Eindhoven, Philips declined to discuss financial aspects of the breakdown but hinted that at some point in the future it might seek a different partnership to expand in medical electronics.

But the City was speculating that Philips may have seen its profits hit because it, like other producers outside the US such as Siemens and Toshiba, have been having a

tough time in selling into the US since the dollar weakened.

The American market is far the biggest for medical electronic equipment. GEC's Picker on the other hand would, like America's General Electric, the other big US manufacturer of such equipment, have been benefiting at the expense of the importers.

When the talks were announced last April it was said that with Picker representing only a third of the joint turnover, GEC was prepared to make a substantial additional investment to bring up its share to 50 per cent.

GEC said it would now turn to "developing" Picker.

Refunding programme hopes boost sentiment

Dollar surges on US optimism

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The dollar rose strongly yesterday in the belief that this week's \$27 billion (£15.4 billion) quarterly refunding programme by the US Treasury will be taken up by overseas investors.

US bond yields fell to their lowest level for nine months, taking heart both from the likely success of the refunding and indications that the American economy is slowing down, opening the way for lower interest rates.

The dollar's strength pushed the pound down by 1.2 cents to \$1.7580, in spite of the Bank of England's signal

for a half-point rise in base rates.

The dollar climbed to DM1.6933 with dealers predicting it will test the important DM1.70 level before the end of the week. It also recorded a useful gain against the yen, rising from ¥127.75 to ¥129.33.

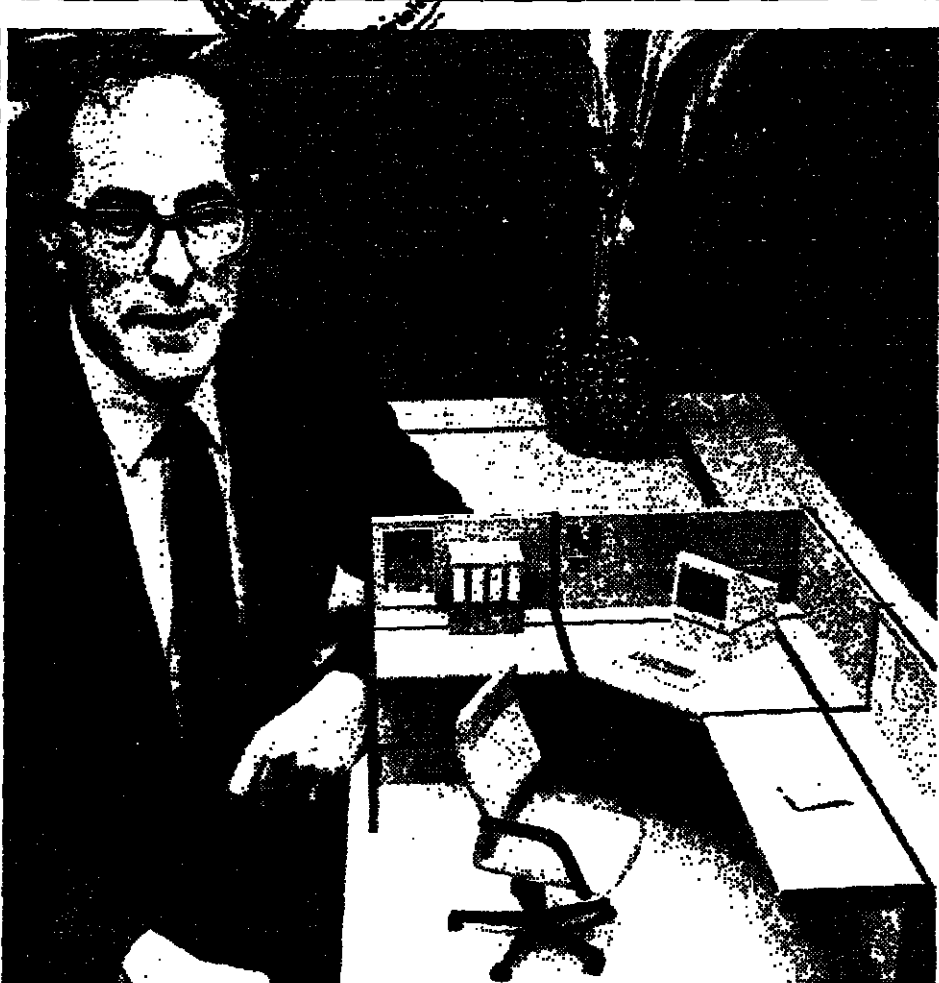
"The dollar is underpinned by perceptions of a slowdown in the US and by the refunding programme," said Mr Russell Jones, economist at Security Pacific-Hoare Govett.

The 30-year 8 1/2 per cent Treasury bond held its overnight gains when it opened in New York. The

yield of 8.34 per cent was the lowest since April 21 last year.

A strong rise in bond prices immediately before a Treasury auction is unusual and underlined the strength of sentiment. The refunding programme begins with \$9.25 billion of three-year notes today, followed by \$9 billion of 10-year bonds tomorrow and \$8.75 billion of 30-year bonds on Thursday.

New statistics added weight to the market view that the US economy is slowing down, following last week's fourth-quarter gross national product figures, which included a fall in consumer spending.



Taking the wraps off a 33 per cent jump in earnings: Derrick Battle with miniature furniture

Bullough buys boost profits

By Michael Tate

Acquisitions have played a key role in yet another impressive profit performance by Bullough, the industrial holding group best known for its Project office furniture.

Mr Derrick Battle, the Bullough managing director who takes over as executive chairman at the next annual

meeting, unveiled a 33 per cent increase in pretax profits from £15.9 million to £21.2 million for the year to end-October, with more than half the increase deriving from the Hubbard-Reader, Reznor (Europe) and Brynmire purchases.

Earnings work out at 36.3p a share, against 27.9p, and shareholders can expect a 9.7p final dividend, making 14p for

the year against 10.6p last time.

Mr Battle says the current year has started well with order books supporting expectations of a further increase in profit. Meanwhile the search for acquisitions, at which the board has been so adept, goes on.

Temper, page 26

Smith New Court may sell
private client brokerage

By Lawrence Lever

Smith New Court, the securities house, is believed to be negotiating the sale of its private client business to the National Investment Group, a network of seven provincial brokers in which it already has a 26 per cent stake.

The private client business operates under the name of Smith New Court Financial Services and employs about 100 people. Its chief executive is Mr David Grenier, the former senior partner of Scott Goff Layton, the broker purchased by Smith in 1985.

The business originates from the private client side of

Scott Goff. It was relaunched as Smith New Court Financial Services in March last year, with Royal Insurance and Electra Investment Trust. Following NIG's recent rights issue, Smith New Court increased its stake to 26 per cent, making it the largest shareholder.

The two sides are believed to be close to concluding a deal although Smith New Court declined to make any comment last night.

Smith New Court is generally considered to have weathered the stock market crash well although it has been hit recently by losses incurred by traded options dealers.

It was one of the three backers of NIG when it was launched in June 1986, with Royal Insurance and Electra Investment Trust. Following NIG's recent rights issue, Smith New Court increased its stake to 26 per cent, making it the largest shareholder.

NIG is a corporate member of the Stock Exchange. Smith New Court already provides it with research, and access to the international markets. It is chaired by Mr Somerset Gibbs who is also the chief executive of Smith New Court Agency, the stockbroking subsidiary of SNC.

Inquiry
starts
into
Shield

By Lawrence Lever

The Department of Trade and Industry is believed to be investigating the Shield Group, the North London property company quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Mr Ashley Rubin, the joint chief executive, refused yesterday to confirm or deny that an inquiry was being held.

He said: "No official DTI inquiry has been announced into the Shield Group and therefore I have no further comment to make."

The Times understands that a confidential investigation was launched into the company in December and a number of the directors have been interviewed.

Shield was one of the darlings of the USM when it was floated by Capel Cure Myers, the broker, in July 1986.

Its shares were placed at 72p but more than doubled within the first fortnight of dealings. Having reached a high of more than 380p they were hit badly by the stock market crash falling back to about 100p.

The company has announced a number of developments over the past 12 months including the purchase of Stickleys & Kent, the residential estate agent, and a joint venture with the Heron Group entered into in May last year.

The joint venture agreement was with Heron's subsidiary, the National Insurance & Guarantee Corporation. Under this agreement, NIGC subscribed for £1 million of preference shares and was granted options over 7.24 per cent of Shield.

NIGC provided loan facilities of £10 million for a new joint venture company called Heron Shield Properties which is owned equally by Heron/NIGC and Shield.

Mr Russell Richards, a NIGC director, joined the Shield Group main board as a non-executive director.

Last September Shield raised £10 million and because of "the need to broaden the scope of developments" agreed to buy a portfolio of commercial and industrial properties from Heron for £6.94 million. NIGC also raised the loan facility to £15 million.

Comment, page 27

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Alan Greenspan: regulation pressure

Wall Street under the microscope

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Wall Street will focus its attention on Washington this week as the Senate launches a comprehensive review of the causes of Black Monday, beginning with the expert testimony of Mr Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Board chairman.

The US Securities & Exchange Commission is planning to release its own influential study of the stock market crash, which will help to determine the agenda of regulatory and legislative reform. Mr David Ruder, the SEC chairman, is scheduled to testify on the report tomorrow. The four days of hearings this week, the most intensive review of Wall Street in decades, are expected to lead to widespread change just as the crash of 1929 ushered in the reforms of the 1930s. But no one expected the actual changes to occur in this session of Congress or to be dictated by this Administration.

Congressional officials have indicated they will focus on the overall responsibility of the market to small

investors, the need for increased margin requirements for futures-related instruments; the breakdown of the specialist system, the capital adequacy of securities firms, and more technical issues related to clearing and computer operations which were strained severely during the 600-million share day. But Wall Street, aware of the ferment

in Washington, has already moved to enact some of its own reforms in an effort to restore investor confidence and to set the tone of anticipated legislation in 1989.

Mr Nicholas Brady, the Wall Street investment banker who headed the Presidential commission on the market crash, was also due to testify today to the Senate Banking Committee. The Brady report stunned the investment community with its conclusion that a small number of large institutions had dominated the market during and after the crash, creating much of the panic selling which brought it close to collapse.

Mr Greenspan, who will speak on the liquidity crisis which emerged the day after Black Monday, has been under strong pressure to play a larger role in regulating the securities industry which he has so far resisted. Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German finance minister, will be under strong pressure to explain Bonn's weak economic performance when he meets the US Treasury Secretary.

Seagram wins control of Martell with £525m bid

By Joe Joseph

Seagram, the Canadian spirits group, has been forced to pay £525 million to regain the backing of the Martell family and wrest control of France's second biggest cognac producer away from Grand Metropolitan, its rival bidder.

The Martell family, which last week turned its back on Seagram and pledged its 41 per cent stake to the British hotels and drinks group, swiftly committed itself once again to Seagram.

The board - hailing Seagram as "the best partner for Martell", offering "the best prospect for long-term growth and development" - has voted unanimously to accept the new terms and recommended shareholders to follow its example and thereby "end a long period of uncertainty for Martell".

Mr Allen Sheppard, the GrandMet chairman, con-

firmed he was bowing out of the fight. "We're very sad to lose Martell, but with the price where it is it would have been very difficult to justify going on in financial terms."

Martell decided on a future with Seagram last month when the family agreed to sell its stake to the Canadian suitor at Fr2,500 a share. The deal was declared invalid by France's stockbrokers' association, allowing an outflanked GrandMet - which has an important distribution agreement with Martell, backed up by a 21.8 per cent stake - to wedge its foot in the door.

That Seagram has had to offer Fr2,475 a share to sway wavering members of the Martell family and secure victory underlines how much the rivals value the 273-year-old prize.

Cognac is one of the few lively sectors in an otherwise

glum market for spirits sales. With Hennessy and Courvoisier already linked to outsiders, only Martell and Remy Martin remained of France's four biggest cognac houses. Of these, Martell is by far the bigger and finer catch.

Mr Edgar Broffman, Seagram's chairman, said: "This increased offer underscores Seagram's commitment to continued international expansion in distilled spirits and wine. We are convinced the integration of Martell as a free-standing company within the Seagram family will have major long-term strategic and financial benefits for both companies."

"As we have stated previously, Seagram will honour and sustain Martell's special relationships with its employees, its suppliers and the entire cognac community."

GrandMet, which will make almost £40 million after tax by tendering its Martell shares to the Seagram bid, expects to continue its distribution deal with Martell, which lasts until the end of the century.

But analysts say it is unlikely that Seagram would have paid so much for Martell only to leave lucrative distribution deals in the hands of one of its biggest competitors. They reckon Seagram might have to pay a further £200 million to dissolve the distribution deal.

Matthew Clark & Sons, which has handled sales of Martell in Britain for more than 150 years, is waiting to see what impact the sale will have on its affairs. Mr Francis Gordon Clark, the chairman, said: "Seagram told me the distribution of Martell in the UK was a matter of some priority to them."

US shop sale by Ward White

By Cliff Feltham

Ward White, the DIY retailing group, is selling its Hoffmeiers chain of shoe shops in the United States to the management for £16 million, as part of its wide-ranging disposal programme. A buyer for its Zodiac toy shops in Britain is now being sought.

Ward White bought Hoffmeiers six years ago, but became disenchanted with the business as it ran into fierce discounting in the shoe retailing business. The company runs 88 family stores in the south-eastern states of the US, and last year turned in profits before tax and interest charges of just over £1 million.

Mr Philip Birch, the chairman of Ward White, said yesterday: "We intend to use the money to reduce our debts in the US and expand our interests in the retailing of cars."

Ward White has also decided that the 84-strong chain of Zodiac toy shops no longer fits in with its strategy, and a sale is expected shortly. The business is expected to fetch around £11 million.

The sales follow Ward White's £170 million takeover of LCP Holdings, the West Midlands industrial group, which gave Ward White control of LCP's Whitlock specialist car parts chain in the US. In this country, Ward White owns the Halfords car accessories group.

Mr Birch has been unloading a number of the old LCP businesses and yesterday announced that the latest, Alexander Comley, a building firm, had brought in £262,000.

Shorlplan leaps 62% to £1.25m

Shorlplan, which specializes in the design and construction of City dealing rooms, reported pre-tax profits 62 per cent higher at £1.25 million for the year to end-October.

The company, which joined the Unlisted Securities Market last summer, is to pay a final dividend of 1p a share compared with 1.8p last time. The board forecasts another successful year.

The company has no borrowings and £1 million in cash deposits.

This, together with strong cash flow, will provide funds for planned expansion.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Next move in rates is likely to be down

The case for raising interest rates became a commonplace of discussion in the City's more learned circles during the middle of last month as economy watchers reflected on the high level of bank lending and continuing buoyancy in the economy. But when the cut actually came many of the market's soothsayers were looking the wrong way.

The surprise in the timing does not invalidate the reasoning behind yesterday's half per cent rise in base rates to 9 per cent. Although there are some signs of a slowdown in consumer spending, the latest survey of industrial trends from the Confederation of British Industry showed clearly enough that, at least for the time being, Britain's factories are continuing to hum. Pay deals are uncomfortably high. And on the monetary side, bank lending continues to grow at a record rate while the narrow definition of the money supply, M0, by which the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, has set some store, also shows signs of misbehaving.

In many ways, yesterday's rise in rates can be seen as a reversion to the economic policy environment of last August. Mr Lawson then took the initiative of raising base rates by 1 per cent when there was no market pressure for him to do so because he was

concerned at the possible inflationary consequences of a booming economy. Rates had been forced down earlier in the summer by the upward pressure on sterling caused by election fever and had ended up lower than was justified by domestic conditions.

That 1 per cent rise had to be reversed in three successive ½ per cent reductions in response to the stock market crash. But now that foreign exchange markets and stock markets have stabilized for the time being, the domestic pressures which are still apparent call for attention.

As to the timing, a precautionary rise at this point makes some sense ahead of what could be a rather nervous run-up to the Budget in which the market will be speculating on the size of tax cuts. The lack of economic news scheduled for the next fortnight reduces the risk that markets will see the rate increase as a harbinger of awful figures on the trade balance or somewhere else. And by raising rates now, Mr Lawson makes it more likely that he can bring them down again following the Budget.

The politics may be less reputable as a justification for policy action, but the expectation must now be that the next move in interest rates is more likely to be down than up. That should help to give markets some heart.

The rights line up

A rights issue queue is building up again. The total raised so far this year through rights issues - £38 million from seven companies - ranks as petty cash alongside last year's blockbusters, such as the £837 million offering from Blue Arrow to fund the purchase of the US employment agency Manpower.

But many companies - mainly modest second-line stocks - are in the throes of taking advantage of the more settled trading conditions to renew cash demands from their shareholders and press on with expansion plans. Or simply reduce borrowings. After the drastic shortening of the rights issue queue following the market crash, a wait of up to four weeks is now in prospect for companies venturing down this fund-raising path again.

The trend certainly reflects a more sanguine view in company boardrooms of current conditions.

But the expected spate of cash calls should be seen for what it is; fund-raisers moving quickly to seek new money during a period of stock market consolidation. It is probably too early to recognize their initiative as a long-term vote of confidence in share prices. And it is a sure thing that the massive £7 billion raised on the London stock market during 1987 through rights issues will not be repeated this year - if ever again.

Bankers' act of trust

The deal on Broadgate, expected to be announced this morning, will reinforce the view that despite retrenchment by some companies, others are still prepared to commit resources to London. Bankers Trust is a major player on the London scene and the indications are that it has taken advantage of a nervous property market to make an offer for outright purchase of Phase 5.

Confirmation of the deal will bring a filip to all companies involved in City development, some of which have taken a hammering in the market since Black Monday. It confirms that the major financial houses are still sufficiently interested in the long term to make major new investments in London.

Rumours in the property market had suggested that Bankers Trust had withdrawn as a potential tenant for Phase 5 and it will come as a surprise that the bank has returned as a purchaser. However, while there have been disappointments on the lettings front, it is thought that County Natwest is still on the line for the 340,000 square feet Phase 6, which would be worth upwards of £200 million. However, it is difficult to see the bank committing that sum to office accommodation and a letting looks much more likely.

Collins buys 60% of MSD

By Michael Tate

William Collins, the publisher, has paid £4.5 million cash for a 60 per cent stake in MSD Holdings, one of Britain's leading audio and video producers, and will pay up to £5 million for a further 15 per cent of the company if certain profit targets are met over the next three years.

MSD, which was founded by Mr Ian Miles and his wife Anne as a music company in 1972, pioneered the promotion of records on television through its Warwick label in its early years.

It has recently become a brand leader in the children's market with its best-selling Tempo range of books and cassettes, featuring names such as Paddington Bear, Postman Pat and Spot. It also markets a full range of classical and popular records.

Commenting on the deal yesterday, Mr Ian Chapman, chairman and chief executive of Collins, said: "MSD will be developed as a separate company alongside our Collins' children's division."

Mr Miles, who, with his wife will continue as a joint managing director of MSD, added: "The tie-up with Collins gives us the proper base to develop the company further in a very competitive field of publishing and distribution."

He is particularly excited about the video market, where MSD is rapidly becoming a leading producer.

Farmers calls 'rare' meeting to rally support against BAT

By Alison Radie

Farmers Group, the Los Angeles insurance company which is the subject of an offer by BAT Industries, will meet stockbroking analysts in New York today. A further meeting is scheduled with analysts in Boston.

Wall Street commentators said it was rare, if not unprecedented, for Farmers to hold such meetings. One analyst said Farmers obviously felt the need to tell shareholders why it believed it was worth more than the \$60 a share BAT was offering.

Although BAT has not formally launched its \$4.2 billion (£2.3 billion) bid for Farmers, it has organized the bid financing through a \$3.2 billion revolving credit facility with 31 leading banks, led by JP Morgan, the US investment bank.

The 31 include some of the best known banks in North America, Britain, Japan and the Continent. Among them are the big four British clearing banks, Bank of America, Citibank, Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Mitsubishi Bank, Union Bank of Switzerland and Deutsche Bank.

The credit, available for four years, provides a quick and flexible method of financing BAT's offer. It also means that no rights issue or other form of equity financing was needed.

The credit facility should underline to Farmers the seriousness of BAT's intentions and reassure insurance regulators that BAT has the ability to launch a large bid.



Waiting for a reply: Patrick Sheehy, the BAT chairman

to launch a large bid. Farmers operates in 26 states and BAT technically needs approval from all of them to succeed. BAT has said approval from nine states was crucial.

BAT made its offer in a letter from Mr Patrick Sheehy, the chairman, to the Farmers chairman nearly three weeks ago. It has had no reply, although Farmers put out a strongly worded rejection in

the Press two weeks ago. Mr Henry Frigon, president of BATUS, BAT's American subsidiary, wrote again urging Farmers to negotiate.

Farmers shares have consistently trailed the bid price, but analysts on both sides of the Atlantic believe the offer will have to be raised to stand a chance of recommendation. British analysts have suggested anything up to \$70 a share would benefit BAT.

Steel privatization advisers named

By Colin Narborough

The British Steel Corporation moved a step closer to privatization yesterday with the announcement by the Department of Trade and Industry that it has appointed three City firms to advise it on the flotation.

Samuel Montagu, preliminary adviser since last February, was named as banking adviser for the privatization. Rowe & Pitman as the Government's broker and Coopers & Lybrand, BSC's present auditor, as accountant.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Trade and Industry, has told Parliament that legislation to turn BSC into a private company will be introduced in the current session, and the latest indications from Whitehall are that it could be submitted by Easter.

This would allow the enabling legislation to be passed in time to allow a flotation by the end of the year, the very earliest moment envisaged by the Government.

The problems the Government faces in privatizing the

electricity and water industries may encourage it to bring forward the BSC sale which promises to be a more straightforward operation.

The exact timing of the sale, which City analysts expect to raise up to £1 billion, will depend on the state of the market and on the progress of the Government's privatization programme in general.

BSC is enjoying very buoyant demand, which allowed the company to state in December that there would be a commercial requirement for

steel making for seven years at its Scottish integrated works at Ravenscraig, subject to market conditions.

This allayed fears that the works was likely to close when the Government's pledge to maintain all five integrated steelworks runs out in August. BSC's latest figures point to it now being one of the most profitable steel firms in the world. It made record profits of £190 million after all charges, more than tripling profits from the same period in 1986-87.

Market's garden mystery

The main talking point at top British securities house Kleinwort Grievson is an Agatha Christie-style mystery which includes that famous culinary duo, the Roux brothers, among the growing list of suspects. The intrigue centres, I am reliably informed, on larger-than-life Brennan Hiorne, head of research at Kleinwort. Most mornings for the past two or three weeks he has apparently arrived at his desk in Kleinwort's swanky Fenchurch Street offices at the unearthly hour of 7.30am, and discovered a strategically placed fruit or vegetable alongside his topic terminals. Having been repeatedly searched himself, to ensure that he was not smuggling the food in himself, suspicious alighted on the Roux brothers - who do Kleinwort's in-house catering - on the grounds that members of their staff are among the few who arrive earlier, to prepare breakfasts for the firm's directors. "It happened almost every day for a couple of weeks - leeks, kiwi fruit and apples," says a colleague. "Then there was a huff, and just as we thought it was all over, a magnificent cauliflower appeared." Now the search for the Phantom Fruiterer, has taken a further turn, following the appearance, last week, of a meat course. "We think it must be from a market-maker, quite another associate, someone who's still a barrow boy at heart."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Slipping down below

At a cost of £100,000 to the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation and Swan Hunter, the shipyard, HMS Ark Royal has found herself in the Tyne this week, as celebrations get under way for the 400th anniversary of the Spanish Armada. Speaking last week, ahead of her arrival, Alastair Balls, the chief executive of the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation,

said that if Sir Walter Raleigh had been standing on the banks of the Tyne that day he would be sharing his pride. For a man who lists sailing - as well as "camping in the company of my family" - as one of his hobbies in *Who's Who*, he really should have known better. The attack against the Armada was, of course, led by Sir Francis Drake.

Foot baa

African hair sheep may sound like a strange topic for boardroom debate, but they could turn out to be big business for British leather company Pittard & Garner. Combining a

high level of natural water resistance with extreme suppleness, the hides of hair sheep have already been successfully marketed by Pittard in the form of golf gloves for the American market. Now, in conjunction with boot manufacturer Quaser, the Yeovil firm is launching a range of football boots. Unlike ordinary boots, which absorb water and thus become heavier and wetter as a match proceeds, the new boots apparently remain light and dry throughout.

Debts Rocket

There were red faces at Northern Rock Building Society yesterday after one of its borrowers, Matt Casey, who owns a £35,000 three-bedroom semi on Tyneside, said he had received a mortgage statement showing that he still owed £923,404.40. "We can only apologize," said a spokeswoman.



"I'd better warn you - I've been headbumped before."

Otherwise engaged

Here is how not to win friends. In falling over themselves to tell the world that at precisely 4pm Norwegian time yesterday - or 3pm London time, or 10am New York time - what a lousy year 1987 was, the Norwegian mini-computer company Norsk Data and its advisers got few marks. A colleague was refused even the bald figures before 3pm on the grounds that without the full spiel he would not get a fair picture. Nor could he speak to the chiefs in London at 3.01pm, because they would then be addressing an analysts' conference. But he could phone Norway, or try the group's new telephone service, on a British number, at 3pm, to hear a line-by-line reading of the income statement and balance sheet, together with a press release. By 3.48pm the telephone service, was still chirping "this line will provide the Norsk Data preliminary results from 3pm on February 1". Just goes to show, of course, that bad news does not necessarily travel fast.

Unable to buy another British football club, perhaps Robert Maxwell should cast his eye across the Atlantic. The American National Football League is, I hear, considering adding two new team franchises to the 28-team Super Bowl competition, which millionaires describe as a licence to print money. Given current favourable exchange rates, it is estimated that a franchise to call an NFL team your very own would cost a mere £30 million.

Carol Leonard

National Westminster Bank PLC

NatWest announces that with effect from and including Tuesday 2nd February 1988 its Base Rate is increased from 8.50% to 9.00% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to NatWest Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

Kleinwort Benson

Kleinwort Benson Limited announces that with effect from 1st February 1988, the mortgage base rate will be 9.9% per annum and the personal loan base rate will be 8.9% per annum.

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Barclays Bank Base Rate.

Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited announce that with effect from 2nd February 1988 their Base Rate is increased from 8½% to 9%

BARCLAYS

Reg. Office: 54 Lombard St., EC3P 3AH Reg. No's 1026167 and 928080.

TSB BANK

With effect from the close of business on Tuesday, 2nd February 1988 and until further notice, TSB Base Rate is increased from 8.50% to 9.00%.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to TSB Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

TSB Group plc,
25 Milk Street, London EC2V 8LU.

American Brands increases bid for E-II to \$2.7bn

New York (Reuter) — American Brands (AMB), the tobacco, distilling, household products and hardware company, has bid \$2.7 billion (£1.52 billion), for E-II Holdings, its hardware and household products rival, in a turnaround defence against E-II's own threat to take over AMB.

AMB, which had previously bid \$1.3 per E-II share, will pay \$17.05 per share — or \$1.13 billion — for E-II, and assume about \$1.59 billion in debt.

AMB's offer expires at midnight, New York time, on February 19, and is conditional on 51 per cent of E-II shares being tendered.

In acquiring E-II, AMB used the "Pac Man" defence, named after the video game and last used on Wall Street in 1982, in which a target firm turns round and bids for its potential buyer.

E-II had rejected the earlier offer and countered by saying it would seek control of AMB by pursuing a proxy fight to unseat AMB's board.

AMB, whose main tobacco products include Carlton, Lucky Strike, Pall Mall and Tarrington cigarettes, said that, as part of the agreement, E-II will end its efforts to seek representation on the AMB board.

A spokesman for AMB said Mr Donald Kelly, the chairman of E-II, has agreed to a 10-year standstill with AMB under which he cannot seek control of the company.

Mr William Alley, AMB's chairman, who had previously said his firm would not raise

its offer, said that E-II had provided AMB with information that justified the higher offer.

AMB said it intends to combine E-II's Waterloo, Aristocrat and Twentieth Century home fashions divisions with its own Masterlock and Dexterlock businesses to create a new core business in hardware and household products.

It will also combine E-II's Day Timers a business diary and appointment book business, with similar businesses of its own.

However, AMB has not yet decided what to do with Samsonite luggage and Culligan water softeners, also owned by E-II.

As part of the agreement, AMB has the option to buy 7.1 million of its own shares, owned by E-II, at current market prices. It said it will not charge shares bought from E-II against its previously announced 10 million share repurchase programme.

Mr Robert Ruker, the vice president of operations for AMB, said there will be no dilution of AMB earnings, because of the sale of assets and cashflow of E-II.

"We are going to have a positive contribution in the first year," he said.

Following completion of the offer, AMB will convert each outstanding share into the right to receive \$17.05 in cash.

For the nine months ended November 30 1987, E-II had a net loss of \$170 million on revenues of \$1.22 billion.

Gevaert attacks Benedetti plan for total ownership

Brussels (Reuter) — Signor Carlo de Benedetti, the Italian entrepreneur, is unwilling to share control of Société Générale de Belgique, Mr Andre Leysen, the chairman of Gevaert, according to Belgium's national news agency, Belga.

Mr Leysen was speaking after meeting a representative of Signor de Benedetti, who two weeks ago announced a bid for effective control of Société Générale.

Mr Leysen heads a European consortium seeking a 34.25 per cent stake in the company.

Mr Leysen told the Belgian news agency the difference between him and Signor de Benedetti was that the Italian wanted to control Société Générale on his own.

"That does not suit us," Mr Leysen said.

Gevaert and its partners were not willing to be in an inferior position to Signor de Benedetti, he said, adding that



Seeking control of Société Générale: Carlo de Benedetti

he did not know how and when further contact between the two parties would take place.

"We must now see if Signor de Benedetti thinks, yes or no, the directors of the parties concerned can meet each other," Mr Leysen said.

Mr Leysen added, without giving details, that if there were another meeting, certain principles would have to be met.

"Right now, we are not yet at that point," he said. "The ball is in their court."

Spokesmen for Gevaert and Signor de Benedetti's holding company, Compagnies Euro-

peennes, were unavailable for comment.

Mr Philippe Maystadt, the Belgian economics minister, earlier said he would meet Signor de Benedetti, Mr Rene Lamy, the Société Générale chairman, and Mr Leysen to discuss the company's future.

"It is not for the public authorities to interfere or meddle in such operations, or to take sides with X or against Y," Mr Maystadt said.

"But their duty is to see that these operations are carried out transparently and assure that they do not harm Belgium's strategic interests," he said.

The minister added that legal details should not obscure economic and industrial issues.

Signor de Benedetti has obtained two injunctions against a defensive capital increase by Société Générale and a commercial court will decide tomorrow on an appeal by the company.

Water firm aims to flood market



A toast to success: Denis Ward samples a glass of Champagne, the Chiltern mineral water (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

Champagne, from the Hertfordshire Chilterns, is the latest entrant in the booming British mineral water market.

The water, which has taken 50 years to seep 350 feet underground is now finding its way on to supermarket shelves round the country.

It is bottled by JW Ward, a company based on an industrial estate at Bourne End, near Hemel Hempstead, whose other interests include dust suppression equipment.

Mr Denis Ward, its chairman, who has been extracting the water at his 150-acre Toms Hill estate home for three years, used it in mushroom growing and to fill a swimming pool before selling it as mineral water.

Turnover reached £600,000 last year as the Chiltern water was sold to Waitrose supermarkets and contracts just secured from Tesco Stores and the Budgen chain are expected to double sales this year.

Under a royalties agreement, the water carries the brand name of nearby Champagne, the health farm.

Up to 3 million gallons of the water is now extracted annually and bottled on two production lines at Toms Hill. Investment costs to the private company — including lining with stainless steel a borehole sunk in 1870 — have

so far amounted to about £500,000 but another bottling line is likely to be needed soon. A second borehole may also have to be sunk.

Mr Peter Rogers, joint managing director with Mr Ward, said: "The water looks like becoming the biggest part of the business. Within five years, we are looking at turnover going to £6 million as the market continues to grow at a rapid rate."

Britain's mineral water market last year increased by about 36 per cent to 150 million litres. Further big increases are expected this year.

French waters such as Perrier and Evian account for an estimated 45 per cent share of the bottled mineral water market in Britain. A new assessment, however, by France's BSN Group, which sells Evian and Badoit, concludes that one of the biggest battles is among British waters fighting to establish a dominant position.

In this fight are brands such as Schweppes's Malvern, Derbyshire's Ashbourne and Buxton, Scotland's Highland Spring and Brecon and Cwm Dale from Wales.

Their potential has attracted a growing number of foreign buyers.

Derek Harris

Jobs agent bought by Abaco

By Alison Eadie

Abaco, the financial services group owned by British & Commonwealth Holdings, has made its first move into the employment agency sector through the acquisition of Team-Sel for £2.2 million.

Abaco has paid £750,000 in cash and the balance in Abaco loan notes.

Team-Sel, based in Great Yarmouth, supplies labour to the oil and gas industries in Britain, Scandinavia and the Middle East. In the year to the end of July the company made pretax profits of £258,000 on turnover of £5.3 million.

Last week Team-Sel bought Femco, a general employment agency, for £500,000.

Footwear imports reach 63%

By Our Industrial Editor

Reduced order books and smaller deliveries to the retail trade are reported by Britain's footwear manufacturers as imports have grown to take 63 per cent of the British market.

Volume orders fell by 46 per cent in November to 7.9 million pairs against November 1986, said the British Footwear Manufacturers Federation. This was a disappointment after orders had improved in October.

Deliveries to the trade declined by 10.9 per cent in volume in November on an annual comparison. It was a worsening of the downward trend seen for several months. But the value of deliveries held up, the decline being 2.5 per cent in November.

Overall supplies to the British market, including imports,

had been almost 2 per cent up by volume over the summer and early autumn but in November they levelled out as retail sales were reported to be only "fair".

Imports rose 15 per cent in November in volume but only by 9.4 per cent in value, reflecting a surge, particularly of cheaper footwear, being landed in Britain.

Some of the biggest suppliers in the Far East continued to increase exports. Taiwan, the second largest supplier to the British market after Italy, increased volume supplies in November to 25.2 million, a 36 per cent increase on the same month in 1986. South Korea's 16.2 million pairs represented a 42 per cent increase. Hong Kong's 13.6 million pairs were a 16 per cent rise. Both China and

Thailand have more than doubled their exports.

Italy, beset with pricing and other problems, recorded a 19 per cent decline in the volume of its imports which in November amounted to 35.6 million pairs. But Spanish footwear at 14.1 million showed a rise of 8 per cent and Portugal's 9.1 million represented a 38 per cent increase.

The good news for the British manufacturers is that their exports are continuing to improve. Over the 12-month period to November, exports have risen 5.7 per cent in volume and 11.2 per cent in value.

In November, 1.7 million pairs were sent abroad, the volume increased by just over 23 per cent and value rose 24.5 per cent.

Mr Brierley promised at the annual meeting of Industrial Equity Ltd to issue post-crash balance sheets for his companies early this year. The only one so far, Hong Kong-based Industrial Equity Pacific Ltd, set HK\$391 million (£27.6 million) of stock write-downs in its year to end-June 1988.

Mr Gordon Lachran, research head of Melbourne broker McCaughan Dyson Capel Cure Ltd, said the October slump rendered most company accounts instantaneously irrelevant.

"It should also show up those industrial companies who were playing investment games and lost when they should have been concentrating on making widgets," he added.

One problem would be whether many companies with interlocking share ownership, or minimal market trading of their scrip, could give realistic stock values, Mr Lachran said.

Investment companies might plead a margin for control or strategic value or accumulation over the share market price, but that was difficult in a bear market.

A strategic holding in a bull market might now be just expensive scrip over-

APPOINTMENTS

Hawker Siddeley names directors for subsidiaries

Hawker Siddeley Group: Mr Durrell Whitaker has joined the board of South Wales Switchgear as managing director, succeeding Mr Arthur Wolfendale. Mr George Evans is now a director of Hawker Noyes Pty and Mr Brian Knight is made finance director to the board of Hawker Siddeley Dynamics Engineering.

King & Shaxson Holdings: Mr Dwight Makins has been appointed a director.

Fraser Marr Financial Services: Mr Gilbert McNeill-Moss has been made a director.

Parrish: Mr Christopher White-Thomson has joined the board.

Parkdale Holdings: Mr John Nettleton has been made a non-executive director.

Sketchley: Mr Tony Coles has been appointed group managing director.

Stanley Miller Holdings: Mr Ian Wallace is now group finance director and company secretary.

MBS: Mr Derek Lewis joins the board.

Critchley: Mr Chris Humphrey has been appointed group finance director.

British Aerospace: Mr DG Eastace becomes a director and will succeed Mr BE Friend as director of finance in May.

Laird Properties (UK): Mr Brian Chilver has been appointed chairman. Mr Alec Edge, Mr Neil Hartman, Mr Jeffrey Hawkes, Mr Paul Hibberd, Mr Stephen Kerridge, Mr Bob Pritchard and Mr Harry Thompson become directors. Mr Stephen Mason becomes investment director.

Chiltern Financial Services: Mr David Whitcombe has been made an associate director.

Bank of Ireland: Mr V Hilary Hough has been appointed managing director, International Factors (Ireland) and joins the board of Bank of Ireland Finance.

RMC Group: Sir Neil Macfarlane becomes a non-executive director.

London & Metropolitan: Mr Stephen Davies is now a director.

Burson-Marsteller Financial: Mr George Welham becomes deputy chairman and Mr John Mattison managing director.

Association of British Consortium Banks: Mr George Gussan has been appointed

chairman and Mr Peter Taplin deputy chairman.

Fenchurch Insurance Brokers: Mr David Way becomes a director.

Scott Brownrigg & Turner: Mr John Riggs has been appointed director of administration.

The Analytical Development Company: Mr Michael Leary has been made chairman and Mr James Mansell managing director.

Venice Simpon-Orient-Express: Mr John Rosemond is now chief executive.

Muirson International: Mr John Hemmings becomes sales and marketing director.

HJ Heinz: Mr Rodney England has been appointed operations director.

Hyde and Partners: Mr Steven Low becomes account director.

Aker Norcem A/S: Mr Per Hauge has become senior vice president of corporate communications, succeeding Mr Ragnar Skjoldal.

William Barrett Group: Mr Robbie Robinson becomes group president, Mr Noel Robinson group chairman and chief executive, Mr Peter Robinson group managing director and design and development director and Mr Terry Lewis becomes managing director of Nu Trend Upholstery.

Toyota (GB): Mr Tony Newham becomes sales director and Mr Brian Treacy becomes dealer development director, succeeding Mr Graham Powell.

We Are Cleaning (The Home Counties): Mr Alex McClelland has been appointed operations director.

Saatchi & Saatchi: Mr Simon Meller becomes deputy chief executive of the communications group.

Sum Life Investment Management Services: Mr David McNab and Mr Richard Hall join the board.

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group: Mr RB Vaughan becomes a director.

McGrigor Donald: Miss Kathleen Stewart and Mr James Taylor join the partnership.

Bluebird Toys: Mr Tom Charnock has been promoted to group chief executive.

Allied Irish Banks: Mr Padraig Fallon joins the board.

Viewplan: Mr Richard Glossop has been appointed managing director.

Morgan to market new Brazilian debt fund

By David Smith

Morgan Grenfell has announced the establishment of a special Brazilian fund, designed to allow international banks to convert debts into equity.

The Brazilian Conversion Fund is to be managed by the Banco Buzano, Simoes de Investimento SA in Brazil, and promoted and marketed by Morgan Grenfell in Europe, Japan and North America.

It will be a mutual fund, mainly invested in equities listed on the Brazilian stock exchanges, and principally aimed at international banks wishing to convert outstand-

ing medium-term debt into a diversified portfolio of Brazilian securities.

Banks will be permitted to subscribe up to \$100 million (£56.5 million). The Brazilian Conversion Fund is the first of its type to be set up under the revised debt-to-equity conversion programme recently announced by Brazil's central bank.

Morgan Grenfell said yesterday that, in addition to the fund's advantages to banks wishing to reduce their level of debt exposure, investors will be in a position to take advantage of the present low price of quoted Brazilian stocks.

Funeral director expands

By Cliff Feltham

Great Southern Group, a leading funeral director, is keeping a close watch on stock market speculation that its smaller rivals Hodgson Holdings and Kenyon Securities could get together to create a new force in the business.

Mr Eric Spencer, group managing director, said: "If there is any development, we will take a close look. We would be very concerned if we were left behind."

The acquisitive Great Southern is back on the expansion trail itself, paying £1.4 million for Dundee Crematorium. The business is being bought from Dominion International and ends its long links with funeral services.

Dundee Crematorium made pretax profits of £217,000 last year. The deal is the first acquisition of a crematorium by Great Southern since it came to the stock market in October, 1986 and will spearhead its expansion in the North.

In another deal, it is paying £230,000 for Preston Ireland Bowker which has three branches in Lancashire and Morecambe. The business made £27,000 last year.

For the whole of last year, Great Southern bought 17 funeral businesses for £4 million, adding 21 branches and 3,700 funerals to its network.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCCI	8.50%
Consolidated Creds	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Citibank NA	9.00%

CRAWFORD'S

Directory of City Connections 1988

OUT NOW!

Phone: Victoria Canton on 01-493 6711

Lawson 'has £9bn for tax changes'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is in a position to announce radical changes in the taxation of husbands and wives in his March 15 Budget, while compensating the losers from such changes with tax cuts, a new analysis says.

The latest UK Economic Outlook, from Wharton Economic Forecasting Associates (WEFA), published today, says that without any tax cuts in the Budget, the public sector borrowing requirement would be negative by £5 billion in 1988-89.

WEFA says that the Chancellor could use £9 billion for tax reform in the Budget, and still meet his original target of £4 billion for the PSBR. However, it expects £3 billion to £4 billion of tax reductions, permitting a zero or small negative PSBR for 1988-89.

Mr Neil Blake, a WEFA economist, said the Chancellor is able to introduce the tax changes floated in the March 1986 Green Paper,

which included a form of transferable allowances.

The changes as proposed then would feature a gradual phasing out of the married man's allowance and its replacement by a transferable allowance. The change would benefit single-carer couples, but hit those where there are two earners, both paying tax.

According to the WEFA report, the introduction of such changes in a Budget where both the basic and higher rates of tax are reduced would sidestep this problem. The losers from the reform would be compensated by the general tax reduction.

The Treasury has shifted from its 1986 proposals for transferable allowances, and ministers favour some form of "halfway house" between them and other forms of independent taxation. But the Chancellor is likely to announce such reforms in the Budget, having committed himself to change at last year's Conservative Party Conference.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	Feb 1	Feb 2
Ald Restaurants	60 +2	71
Asa-Henriques 71hp	78 +1	79
Brit Pet PIP	143	143
Carron Phoenix (120p)	117	117
City Groves (100p)	240	240
Euroland	141	141
Euroland Wint	141	141
Firstland	68 +6	74
Fairway London	82 +1	83
Hard Cash Cafe	110	110
Do 'A'	75	75
Hatfield East (100p)	113 +1	114
How Group	71 +1	72
ISA Ind (80p)	111	111
Inshops (52p)	64	64
Kunick	37 1/2	37 1/2
Mowat	36	36
Nestor-BNA (75p)	100 +10	110
Power Corp	105	105
Record (86p)	58 +1	59

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
February 1	February 1	February 1	May 18
Call options were taken out on: 1/2/88 For East Resources, Amstrad, GFA, Elwick, Delta, Camford Engineering, Ferguson Industrial Holdings, Ashby Industrial Trust, APV, Tricor, Cheltenham, South, BMA, Brawley, Blacks Leisure, Camp, Eagle Trust, Johnson Fry, Filcon Industries, Control Securities, Rotaprint, Plessey, Pate, Chatterfield, Rotaprint, Put & Cash, Plessey.			

Raeburn

AN INCOME GROWTH INVESTMENT TRUST

Results for the Year Ending 30 November 1987

	1987	1986
Revenue	£7.8m	£6.0m
Gross revenue	17.59p	12.78p
Proposed dividend for year	16.50p	13.50p
Assets	£26.2m	£13.6m
Total resources	461.0p	525.8p
Net asset value per ordinary stock unit (fully diluted)		

Dividend Growth	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Dividend per unit	4.05	5.45	6.35	6.90	7.90	8.40	9.50	10.50	13.50	16.50

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Managers Lazard Freres, 21 Moorfields, London EC3P 2HT. Tel: 01-368 2721.

A member of the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

Australia calculates crash cost

Melbourne (Reuter) — Australian corporate watchdogs have set a three-week deadline for listed companies to disclose losses or profits on their share investments since the October slump.

The National Companies and Securities Commission (NCSC) and Australian Stock Exchange Ltd (ASX) have told the more than 1,800 listed companies to report on the market and book value of listed equity investments at December 31.

"It may be that some companies will be damaged by these disclosures but that is not our concern. Our concern is to protect investors," said Mr Henry Bosch, the NCSC chairman.

Share analysts generally supported the compulsory declaration, saying it would be a more reliable base to equity prices, but some businessmen called it potentially dangerous.

"This information could be very, very dangerous in the hands of those who don't appreciate what it is," said Mr John Spalvins, the managing director of Adelaide Steamship Co.

Mr Spalvins said Adsteam, primarily an investment company, would comply with the request but he said simple figures of book value and market price did not reflect the strategic value of equities investments for which there is a premium.

Australia's stock market, weighted

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or weekly dividend figures. If it matches or exceeds this figure, you have won outright or a share of the daily or weekly prize money. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Shell	Industrials S-Z	100.00
2	Nat. Am. Bk.	Banking	100.00
3	Avic Europe	Industrials A-D	100.00
4	Standard Steam	Property	100.00
5	Sale Tinsley	Industrials S-Z	100.00
6	Thames Valley	Building Roads	100.00
7	McAlister (Africa)	Building Roads	100.00
8	Waco	Textiles	100.00
9	Beckman (A)	Paper, Print, Adv.	100.00
10	TNT	Industrials S-Z	100.00
11	Claydon	Property	100.00
12	RHP	Industrials A-D	100.00
13	Bank of Scotland	Banking	100.00
14	Brixton	Property	100.00
15	Ryl. Bk. Scot. (Int.)	Banking	100.00
16	Sock Shop	Drapery, Stores	100.00
17	London & Man.	Insurance	100.00
18	Tiphook	Shipping	100.00
19	Park Foods	Foodstuffs	100.00
20	Landislaw (R)	Textiles	100.00
21	Landislaw (R)	Textiles	100.00
22	Type Test TV	Consumer Goods	100.00
23	Providence	Banking	100.00
24	Transcontinental	Industrials S-Z	100.00
25	Proddy (Africa)	Drapery, Stores	100.00
26	Headlam Sims	Shoes, Leather	100.00
27	Warner Howard	Industrials S-Z	100.00
28	Vaux Group	Building Roads	100.00
29	Howard Higgs	Building Roads	100.00
30	AIM	Industrials A-D	100.00
31	Crosby James	Building Roads	100.00
32	Perkins (A)	Textiles	100.00
33	Smith (Africa)	Industrials A-D	100.00
34	Smith (Africa)	Industrials A-D	100.00
35	Meyer Int.	Banking	100.00
36	Midland (Int.)	Banking	100.00
37	Wyndham Eng.	Industrials S-Z	100.00
38	Allied Colloids	Chemicals, Plastics	100.00
39	Usher Walker	Paper, Print, Adv.	100.00
40	Securguard	Industrials S-Z	100.00
41	VPI Co.	Paper, Print, Adv.	100.00
42	Irish Dist.	Breweries	100.00
43	Gr. Portland	Property	100.00
44	Nat. West (Int.)	Banking	100.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS			
Fund	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

UNDATED			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

INDEX-LINKED			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

ELECTRICALS			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

CINEMAS, TV			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

DRAPERY, STORES			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

HOTELS, CATERERS			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

INDUSTRIALS A-D			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

S-Z			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

OILS, GAS			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

SHOES, LEATHER			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

TEXTILES			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

TOBACCOS			
Company	Price	Change	%
High Low Stock			

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities lose early lead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 25. Dealings end February 5. Contango day February 8. Settlement day February 15. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (As) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 25)

1987/88 High Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

BREWERIES				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

BUILDING, ROADS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

FINANCE, LAND				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

FINANCIAL TRUSTS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

FOODS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

CINEMAS, TV				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

DRAPERY, STORES				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

HOTELS, CATERERS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

INDUSTRIALS A-D				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

S-Z				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

OILS, GAS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

SHOES, LEATHER				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

TEXTILES				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

TOBACCOS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

1987/88 High Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

BREWERIES				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

BUILDING, ROADS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

FINANCE, LAND				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

FINANCIAL TRUSTS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

FOODS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

CINEMAS, TV				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

DRAPERY, STORES				
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HOTELS, CATERERS				
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INDUSTRIALS A-D				
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S-Z				
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OILS, GAS				
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NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS				
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TEXTILES				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

TOBACCOS				
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS				
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CINEMAS, TV				
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SHOES, LEATHER				
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TEXTILES				
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1987/88 High Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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BREWERIES				
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FINANCE, LAND				
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

FOODS				
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS				
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INDUSTRIALS A-D				
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S-Z				
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OILS, GAS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

SHOES, LEATHER				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

TEXTILES				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

TOBACCOS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000
Claims required for 52 points
ACCUMULATOR £32,000
Claims over 52 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53722

1987/88 High Low Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

BREWERIES				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

BUILDING, ROADS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

FINANCE, LAND				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

FINANCIAL TRUSTS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

FOODS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

CINEMAS, TV				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

DRAPERY, STORES				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

HOTELS, CATERERS				
100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	10.0

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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UNLISTED SECURITIES

1987/88	Company	Price	Change %	V	P/E	1987/88	Company	Price	Change %	V	P/E	1987/88	Company	Price	Change %	V	P/E	1987/88	Company	Price	Change %	V	P/E																				
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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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HORIZONS

A guide to
career opportunities

Musician turns engineer? BBC strikes a new note

Some of the best engineers at the BBC in future could well be former philosophers or linguists or musicians. The corporation is taking talented individuals who have been heading for, or perhaps even started, other careers, often based on arts degrees, and putting them through a high-pressure conversion course to make engineers of them.

The need for such a scheme became apparent three or four years ago, says Robert Neal, the BBC's head of engineering and technical operations recruitment, when the corporation's recruitment planners started doing their sums on future trends in supply and demand.

The two key groups from which the BBC had historically drawn its engineers - graduate electronics engineers and 18-year-old school-leavers with a technical bent - would no longer be enough. The demand for electronics graduates is far outstripping supply and the number of 18-year-olds is decreasing every year.

The number of people fishing in the same pool of recruitment ponds was going to increase while the ponds were getting smaller, says Mr Neal. "We were going to be elbowing one another out of the way. So you can either get sharper elbows or you find yourself another pond."

On average the BBC has recruited 100 electronics graduates and 100 school-leavers a year for engineering. It now hopes to get 20 to 30 of the total from non-engineering graduates. Selecting trainees from the ranks of electronics graduates and from school-leavers is relatively straightforward. But the BBC was breaking new ground with non-engineering graduates.

Mistakes would be expensive for the BBC, which would have to write off the cost of failed trainees and probably also help them find another job, says Mr Neal. The experience could also be devastating for the recruits. They would have lost two years of their life on a wasted training and, just as important, they would, probably for the first time, feel like losers.

He adds: "The people we've been selecting haven't actually failed at anything they've tried to do. They've gone to university, they've succeeded there, and I don't really want to be the person who wrecks their confidence."

The special-assessment procedure for conversion-course recruits involves a battery of psychometric tests measuring numeracy, literacy and use of abstract thought. Recruits also undergo another assessment at the BBC's training centre near Evesham to see whether they understand technology and have problem-

solving ability. The two processes are backed up by an interview. Mr Neal expects up to 2,000 applications a year for the 30 or so vacancies. He would thin those down to 80 or 100 to go forward for the training-centre assessment programme.

He says the principle characteristics the BBC is seeking are:

- Problem-solving ability.
- Evidence of success in some other field ("If we're putting a lot of money into these people, we want to back winners rather than people who might win if we gave them yet another chance.")
- Recent learning experience. The BBC has to be confident that the recruit knows how to learn.

Just about the only academic *sine qua non* is a very simple one: O-level maths. There seems a broad correlation between people who get O-level maths

A change in corporation policy may, writes

Malcolm Brown, open engineering jobs to

young people who know a piano keyboard better than an electronic circuit

with an A or a B, a one or a two, and those who succeed in engineering training, says Mr Neal.

The scheme is not aimed purely at final-year students, who can go straight to the corporation from university.

The BBC is also very interested in those who have embarked on another career and want to change horses. Mr Neal says: "A lot of the people who have joined us went through the arts route to a career which needed an arts degree, then found it was not what they wanted." This means that the age of the conversion-course graduates is probably mid-twenties. There has also been a recruit in his early thirties.

The engineers the recruiters are looking for are not the ones who operate in control rooms ("technical operators") but those whose job is the development and maintenance of the equipment itself.

"When people come for jobs and want to know the difference," says Mr Neal, "I always ask the question: are you happier making the equipment for programmes

or are you happier taking it to pieces? If you get something at home, do you itch to take the back off?"

Mr Neal is interested in the ones who want to get at the innards for his conversion course. They will work in three main areas: maintenance, equipment development work, and what Mr Neal calls one-design, which would involve, for example, developing special routing systems for occasions such as royal wedding broadcasts or the Olympics.

The BBC reckons it takes three years to train an 18-year-old school-leaver to become an engineer and between 12 and 18 months to do the same for an electronics graduate. It expects to push conversion-course graduates through the same process in about two years.

During that time, the recruit spends three periods of three or four months at the BBC's Evesham centre and between those courses goes on attachment to a whole series of different units to learn the special skills of the broadcasting engineer on the job.

During the on-the-job segments, the recruit has a tutor who might run seminars to put the practical work in context. Students are also expected to keep up with the theoretical work helped by special BBC learning manuals.

The tutor signs a detailed log-book at regular intervals to make sure the trainee is keeping pace and coping with the work. The trainee is assessed during the whole two-year period and sits tests at the end of the three courses. The recruit will be paid between £5,000 and £7,000 during training and can expect about £9,000 in the first job after completing training.

Encouragingly for women, while the electronics graduate and school-leaver intakes have resulted in only five or six per cent of trainees being women, the "conversion course" has done much better - about a third in the first year, slightly less in the second.

Will the scheme work? Mr Neal is optimistic and says that other groups are starting to take a great interest in what the BBC is doing. Several universities, for instance, are exploring the possibility of having a conversion course for school leavers so that talented youngsters who may not have taken the traditional physics and maths route to an engineering degree course can be given special bridging schemes to make them good engineering students.

● Mr Neal, BBC head of Engineering and Technical Operations Recruitment, can be contacted at Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Secretary: Environment

The RSA requires an experienced administrator to manage and develop the Society's wide-ranging programme on the environment. Current projects include the Better Environment Awards for Industry and a major initiative on the future of the countryside.

The postholder acts as secretary to the Committee for the Environment and is responsible for fundraising. The second has a further staff of two.

Candidates, who should be at least 28, should have a strong interest in the environment and preferably relevant experience and/or qualifications. The ability to deal confidently with people at all levels is also required.

Initial salary c. £15,000. To start 12 March 1988 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Please apply, enclosing detailed C.V. to:

James Richardson
RSA
8 John Adam Street
London
WC2N 6EZ

Telephone: 01-930 5115

Closing date: 12 February 1988

RSA

The Royal Society for the encouragement of
Arts, Manufactures & Commerce
Founded in 1754

COMMERCIAL OFFICER

DANISH EMBASSY

A vacancy exists at the Danish Embassy for a Commercial Officer. Duties will include: market research, trade promotion, establishment of contact between Danish exporters and British importers/agents etc. Candidates should have marketing/sales experience within the British building market preferably with some knowledge of the Scandinavian building industry. Applicants should be aged between 25 and 35, graduates preferably in a business discipline and fluent in English with a working knowledge of a Scandinavian language.

Applicants with a full CV should be sent to:

The Royal Danish Embassy,
Commercial Section,
55 Sloane Street,
London SW1X 9SR

London Fire Brigade

The London Fire and Civil Defence Authority is now responsible for fire and emergency planning services in the Greater London area and its responsibilities include the London Fire Brigade.

Deputy Chief Officer

£37,116 pa to £40,836 pa plus London Weighting £1,725 pa

Applications are invited from officers who hold the substantive rank of Assistant Chief Officer or above for the post of Deputy Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade. You must have secured the Brigade Command Course or its equivalent.

A manager of the highest calibre is sought with a proven record of success at a senior level in all principal aspects of the work of a large urban brigade. You will be expected to have a good knowledge and understanding of all Fire Prevention legislation and practices and possess those skills necessary to assist in developing the role of the Fire Prevention Department in this Authority.

As a member of the Chief Executive Board the Deputy Chief Officer will be responsible to the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive for the executive management of the London Fire Brigade and will deputise for him as Chief Fire Officer in his absence. You would also be expected to provide effective liaison in relation to the Brigade's role in Civil and Emergency planning.

A strong vocational commitment to the fire service is a prerequisite and you must also be able to demonstrate a firm commitment to, and understanding of, equal opportunities policies.

You will be required to live in the Greater London Area and necessary relocation expenses, to an extent determined by the Authority, will be provided.

Reply to: The Authority Personnel Officer, London Fire and Civil Defence Authority, Ref: P/BS 4, Room 610, Queensborough House, 12/18 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7SD, or telephone 01-587 4783. Closing Date: 19th February 1988.

The Authority has a positive equal opportunities policy.

LFCDA

London Fire & Civil Defence Authority

FUND RAISING DIRECTOR

£34M FUND-RAISING PROGRAMME BIRMINGHAM

Ideal opportunity for mature executive with a successful career in business or public service seeking a new and strong challenge.

The Birmingham-based Centre for this £34m programme has developed out of a three-year research project for the better understanding of the world's cultures as represented in British society. Amongst the major projects is the construction of purpose-built premises including a conference centre.

Responsible to the Chairman of the Board, the Fund-Raising Director will liaise closely with business, industry and statutory authorities; also co-ordinate the work of voluntary fund-raising leaders and establish a new Foundation.

Probably aged between 40 and 55, the candidate should have senior managerial experience, commercial acumen, financial ability and be a competent communicator.

Salary on appointment, and whilst obtaining experience, negotiable not less than £14,000 p.a.

For further information and application form, please write to:

Personnel
Donors International
Post Office Building
Albrighton
Wolverhampton WV7 3QH

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

c.£18-£20,000

The London Docklands New Technology Centre Limited is seeking an experienced Executive to be responsible for the overall operation of the Centre.

The Centre, established in 1984, specialises in the training of young people in new technology skills, including office automation and computer programming, under the auspices of the MSC's YTS programme. It has established a reputation as a centre of training excellence within the Docklands business community.

Your brief will be to consolidate and fully expand the training role of the Centre, taking full advantage of business opportunities offered by its exceptional location in London Docklands.

Candidates of graduate calibre should offer a strong commitment to training and an awareness of the potential of its application in the new technology field, supported by a proven management and administrative record, including profit accountability in a commercial business environment.

Applications, with a comprehensive C.V., should be forwarded by Wednesday 17th February to Mr David Lowman, Head of Personnel & Administration, London Docklands Development Corporation, West India House, Millwall Dock, London E14 9TJ.

DOCKLANDS ITC
LONDON DOCKLANDS NEW TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HOUSING ASSOCIATION LTD

The RBLHA is one of the largest national associations specialising in sheltered housing for the elderly. The association's considerable Scottish holdings are managed from Edinburgh. The association seeks to appoint a

DIRECTOR - SCOTLAND

Salary circa £17,000 + Car
(currently under review)

The post carries full responsibility for the direction and control of housing management, development and the maintenance of all Association property in Scotland. The appointee will report to the Association's director of housing and development at Head Office.

The successful candidate will demonstrate a knowledge of all aspects of housing, and will have particular expertise in development in Scotland. Management and leadership skills of a high order are required as is the ability to make a positive contribution to the policy and growth of the Association. Benefits include a car, attractive pension scheme, private health insurance and 25 days annual leave.

Applicants with appropriate experience and professional qualifications are invited to apply in writing with C.V., marking the envelope "Private and Confidential" to

Peter G.D. Mapp, Personnel and Training Manager
The Royal British Legion Housing Association Ltd.,
P O Box 32, Penn
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP10 8JF.

The final date for the receipt of applications is February 12, 1988.

The RBLHA is an equal opportunities employer.

PROJECT LEADER

£15,000 to £19,000 Based at Reading

Thames Water manages the entire watercycle in the River Thames and River Lee catchments, and is the largest undertaking of its type in the world. The current annual capital expenditure is £152m, and we are investing heavily in the benefits of instrumentation, control and automation.

Working within our Operation Development Group, based at Headquarters in Reading, you will be required to assist in the development of the future strategy of installation of real-time operational control systems and to coordinate and overview its implementation throughout the Authority. We have at present a wide variety of SCADA systems and you will be required to formulate a database on this equipment with its associated sensors, leading to the development of preferred purchasing lists.

You should be a Chartered Engineer possibly with experience in the Water Industry.

Your background will probably be as an instrument, control or electronics engineer in the process industry, or in a technical role with the user, manufacturer or systems side of

the Water Industry. Recent Graduates with a flare for innovation and systems engineering will be considered. An appropriate car allowance will be paid and assistance with relocation expenses will be given where relevant.

We offer a 35 hour week (flexi-time), a minimum of 22 days holiday, a subsidised staff restaurant, a lively sports and social club and a pension scheme with interchange facilities.

Application forms can be obtained from Andy McCoy in the Personnel Department, Room 312, Kings Meadow House, c/o Nugent House, Western Road, Reading RG1 8DB, or by telephoning him on Reading 593822.

Closing date: Monday 22nd February 1988.



RUNNING WATER FOR YOU

EAST YORKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL CHIEF COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR

£12,432-£13,173

This post offers an outstanding opportunity for a Committee Administrator to lead a team servicing the Council's Committee system and various working groups. In addition to co-ordinating, supervising and monitoring the workload of the Section, the duties include responsibility for the servicing of the Council and one or more of the Council's major committees (i.e. preparation of agenda, reports, minutes and associated administrative action). Applicants must be able to work under pressure and have experience of servicing at least two major local authority committees. An appropriate administrative qualification would be an advantage.

A casual user car allowance and car loan facilities are attached to this post and an attractive recruitment incentive package will be available in appropriate cases.

The post is based in Bridlington, a popular coastal resort surrounded by a pleasant rural area with low cost good quality housing.

Further details and application form may be obtained from The Personnel Officer, Town Hall, Bridlington YO16 4LP (Tel. 01262 679151) and completed forms should be returned to him by 12th February, 1988.

THE ROYAL ASSOCIATION FOR DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION REQUIRES A PARLIAMENTARY LIASON OFFICER

The post involves a variety of functions concerned with legislation for disabled people. Typing an advantage. Salary NUC scale 4-6 (£9,333-£12,387). Job description and application form available from

The Office Manager, RADAR,
25 Marlborough St WIN 8AB.

RADAR is an equal opportunities employer.

ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE OXFORD DOMESTIC ADMINISTRATOR

St. Hugh's College wishes to appoint a Domestic Administrator with effect from 1st September 1988. The Administrator will be responsible, under the Senior Bursar, for all aspects of the domestic running of the College. Salary and terms negotiable. Further particulars from

The Senior Bursar,
St. Hugh's College,
OXFORD, OX2 6LE
(Tel: 0865-274913)

to whom applications, with curriculum vitae and names of three references, should be submitted by 19th February 1988.

The Association of Accounting Technicians This steadily growing professional body is looking for an exceptional person to fill a demanding and creative new post:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY (Professional)

The post holder will head the newly created Professional Division and act as secretary to Professional Committees. If you think you can take responsibility for the development of ideas for committees, the formulation of policy for council, and accountability for a divisional budget to the secretary, then we are looking for you. You will probably have experience as an officer with a professional body already, and it would be advantageous if you have worked in membership and student registration. The salary will be up to £21,000 with other benefits, and the office is situated near Gray's Inn.

Closing date for applications is
February 5 1988

For further details contact:

The Secretary (Dept Time)
AAT
21 Jockey's Fields
London WC1R 4BN
Tel: 01 485 4361

LONDON ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

required for a national charity based in
S.E. London, serving blind and
partially-sighted people

SALARY £12,500

We urgently need an experienced professional to develop our public relations strategy and to promote our charity.

The successful candidate must have a proven track record in the public relations field.

Candidates for this highly visible appointment will have initiative, excellent communications skills and be a competent administrator.

Additional benefits include:-

Health Care. Pension. Life Assurance. Canteen. Ample Parking

Initial application in writing, together with a full C.V. to:-

Mrs Eileen Howard
London Association for the Blind
14-16 Verney Road
London
SE16 3DZ

Closing date for applications - 19th
February 1988.



01-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

01-481 1066

SENIOR LAND SURVEYOR

£14K to £15.5K including London Weighting

Based at Heathwall Pumping Station, SW8.

Thames Water is the largest and most commercially orientated of Britain's Water Authorities, currently employing 9,500 staff to cover an operating area of 5,000 square miles and providing a comprehensive, efficient service to 11.5 million customers.

We require a Senior Land Surveyor in the Land Survey Group operating from offices in Nine Elms, London SW8. Duties will be both site and office based.

On-site duties will include carrying out large scale engineering and topographic surveys for major construction and modernisation projects, monitoring of structures, surveys through live sewers and obtaining field data to update our sewer and water records system, using the latest EDM and electronic theodolites with data loggers.

In the office you will need good drawing office skills and experience in computerised survey data processing and CAD systems along with a working knowledge of computer programming.

You will also be expected to supervise and train technicians based with the Group on a sponsored training scheme.

You should be qualified with a B.Sc in Land Surveying or have passed the final examination of the R.I.C.S. Land Survey Division or have attained full membership of the I.C.E.S., and have a minimum surveying would be an advantage.

A clean driving licence is required and casual user car allowance will be payable when applicable. The appointment is subject to a satisfactory blood test.

We offer a 35 hour week (flexi-time), 25 days holiday and a pension scheme with interchange facilities.

Application forms can be obtained from Darren Easton in the Personnel Department, Room 312, Kings Meadow House, c/o Nugent House, Vauxhall Road, Reading RG1 8DB. Tel: (0734) 593822. Please quote reference: TD241/5547A.

Closing date: 22 February 1988.



RUNNING WATER FOR YOU

Head of Internal Management Consultancy

£21,231 max. + leased car

To take charge of our small internal consultancy function and to provide a cost effective high profile service to the Members of the Council and to departmental chief officers.

We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic man or woman with an innovative and commercial approach to problem solving, with a view to achieving increased effectiveness in service delivery. A relevant degree and broad-based management experience are essential.

- Equity Share scheme for house purchase in appropriate cases.
- Relocation expenses paid up to £5,000.
- Leased car available for £65 a month.

For an informal discussion, please contact: Tim Butterfield, Chief Personnel Officer on 01-464 3333 ext. 3303.

Application form and further details from Personnel Services, J23, Bromley Civic Centre, Rochester Avenue, Bromley BR1 3UH. Tel: 01-290 0324 (24 hour answering service) quoting Ref: A531.

Closing date: 12th February 1988.

Kent Probation Service
A Service Committed to Equal Opportunities

Probation Officers

Current Salary £9,753 to £13,506

Applications are invited from experienced or recently qualified C.Q.S.W. holders for appointment as probation officers. There are currently vacancies in the county at Dartford, Maidstone and the Medway Towns.

All these districts give opportunity for work in urban and rural areas. The service is committed to giving opportunities to develop a variety of working methods.

Kent Probation Service has generous in-service training programme for all probation officers. The management and staff are committed to a five year career development programme for newly appointed officers. This provides an induction course and a firm professional foundation for future careers in the Service. A range of training opportunities develop officer potential exist throughout the subsequent career span.

Conditions of service in Kent are good, and temporary accommodation is sometimes available. There are both assisted car purchase and car leasing schemes. Removal expenses are paid in full and other disturbance allowances are generous. Home to office mileage up to 20 miles per day is paid. It is a condition of appointment in Kent that officers will, at some stage in their career, be seconded to a penal establishment for a period.

If you would like to discuss any of these vacancies, please contact John Lloyd, A.C.P.O. (for Maidstone), Joan Pennell, A.C.P.O. (for Dartford), or Paul Wilson, A.C.P.O. (for Medway), telephone number Maidstone (0622) 50934.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from Gordon Stone, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, 58 College Road, Maidstone, ME15 6SJ. (Tel: Maidstone (0622) 50934. Completed application forms should be returned to 58 College Road, Maidstone by Monday 15 February, 1988.

Short-listed applications will be invited to attend for interview on Thursday, 25th February, 1988.

FOLD HOUSING ASSOCIATION and its allied charity FOLD HOUSING TRUST

CHIEF EXECUTIVE / DIRECTOR

Salary Circa £20,000

The person appointed should be professionally qualified and should ideally have:

- 1 A proven interest in the care of elderly people.
- 2 Entrepreneurial ability.
- 3 Managerial experience.
- 4 A good track record in financial control, administration and personnel management.
- 5 Negotiating experience.
- 6 Communication skills.
- 7 A good knowledge of Northern Ireland.

Fold Housing Association, the largest provider of sheltered housing in Northern Ireland has 48 sheltered housing schemes throughout the Province housing approximately 1500 elderly people, and a healthy future development programme. Fold Housing Trust promotes the building of privately financed sheltered housing, runs a staying Put Advice Service which with its Building Contracting firm has helped over 2,000 elderly owner occupiers, supports an Additional Care Scheme for tenants, has 35 Day Centres, caring for 800 people weekly and raises Charitable funds through the Fold Appeal. Fold employs 232 people.

Applications in writing before Friday, February 26, 1988 to: The Chairman, Fold Housing Association, 3 Redburn Square, Holywood, Co Down BT18 9HZ.

CLEETHORPES BOROUGH COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNINGLANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
Grade S01/2 - £11,322-£12,075
(Initially for a two year period)

Applications are invited from enthusiastic suitably qualified persons for this new post that has been created to direct work mainly related to the creation of the 90 acre Cleethorpes Country Park. Although the Landscape Architect should preferably be a member of the Institute of Landscape Architects, have design flair and able to demonstrate effective supervision skills, the person appointed will effectively be the Authority's Project Manager on the above mentioned Scheme.

Cleethorpes Borough is quite diverse in nature, with seaside, industrial areas and countryside within its area. The Borough is dedicated to a forward looking programme of improvement and the Landscape Architect will be part of the busy Forward Planning team in the Department of Development and Planning.

THE POST IS PARTLY FUNDED BY THE COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION.

Application forms and job descriptions can be obtained by either writing to the address below or, by ringing Cleethorpes 202500 (extension 2425). Closing date for completed applications is 19th February 1988.

R.W. BULL, Chief Executive and Clerk of the Council
Cleethorpes Borough Council
Council House
CLEETHORPES
South Humberside
DN35 8LN

TECHNICAL

DISTRICT PROJECT MANAGER:
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

IN THE RANGE OF £17,000 - £25,000 PER ANNUM

A District Project Manager is required to oversee the development and introduction of a All Wales pilot project within 3 Acute hospitals in West Glamorgan. The intention is to harness information technology to the task of improving resource management processes. The Project Manager will be directly accountable to the General Manager and will report to and support the Project Director from Cooper & Lybmonds (external consultants) who have responsibility for the All Wales aspects of the Pilot.

The contract is for a fixed term expected to be for approximately three years. (To be expanded in the further particulars).

This post requires knowledge of the potential of I.T. in the management of health care, experience of the management of change, and appreciation of the information needs of a complex organisation and some knowledge of the working of large, acute general hospitals, experience of Project Management of a large scale I.T. system (preferably in Health organisation).

Interested candidates who can offer some (or all) of these attributes are invited to discuss this position with Mr. J.H. Burton, General Manager, or Mr. C. Grimes, Treasurer, or Mr. T. Siddow, Assistant General Manager (Planning), Swansea 458066.

Job description and application forms are available from District Personnel Officer, 36 Orchard Street, Swansea - tel Swansea: 458066. Closing date for applications is 15th February 1988.

TECHNICAL

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ESTATES SECTION

Senior Valuer and Estates Officer
Up to £14,200

With the construction of the M1-A1 Link road and the overall development pressures from the south-east, Kettering is developing rapidly. As a result a new post has been created for a professionally qualified and experienced Chartered Surveyor to play a key role in shaping the Borough's future.

Duties will centre on the acquisition and disposal of housing and retail sites, the development of industrial estates and premises as well as a full range of valuation and management responsibilities.

Benefits include car allowance, removal expenses and temporary rented accommodation where appropriate.

Application forms, returnable by 10th February, are available from the Personnel Officer, Municipal Offices, Bowling Green Road, Kettering.

Telephone: 0536 85211, Ext. 214.
An Equal Opportunities Employer.
Kettering Borough Council

FINANCE

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

GROUP ACCOUNTANT (CENTRAL SERVICES LEISURE AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION)

PO6 £18,762 - £19,986 PA INC. REF.B1162/T

This key post is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and managing 10 staff in the Financial Services Division.

The Group undertakes the accounting and financial management duties for various Council committees, the major two of which are Resource Strategy and Leisure.

The post involves attendance at officer working groups and at committees as sole representative of the Finance Department. Duties also include the co-ordination of central services and management information. Practical knowledge of both micro and main frame computer accounting and financial information systems would be an advantage.

Candidates will be expected to have been qualified (preferably C.I.P.F.A.) for approximately two years and possess extensive accounting experience in the public sector, or with a commercial organisation working at senior management level.

Closing date: 26th February 1988.

Are you ambitious?
Are you self motivated?
Have you just reached successful accounting examination results?
Do you want to further your management and committee experience in an accounting environment?

If the answers are yes then why not apply for the following job posts which have become vacant as a result of restructuring our financial Services Division.

Assistant Group Accountant up to £17,940 p.a. incl. REF. B1128/T

A qualified accountant is required to act as a deputy to the Group Accountant and to lead a sub section responsible for financial management and accounting functions relating to a major Committee of the Council.

The range of functions includes preparation and monitoring of service budgets and closure of accounts with a key role in the design and application of commercial financial criteria for public services.

Principal Accountants up to £15,400 REF. B1129/T

Three qualified accountants or persons approaching their final examination with relevant accounting experience, are required to each lead a sub-section of four staff responsible for financial management and accounting functions in respect of a major Council service.

In all these posts you will be expected to maintain a close liaison with officers in service departments, use your initiative and work with the minimum of supervision. Closing date: 19th February 1988.

Waltham Forest is a multi-racial area, and we are anxious to ensure this is reflected in our workforce. We welcome applications from people regardless of race, colour, creed, ethnic or national origins, age, disability, marital status, sex and from gay men and lesbians.

Application forms and job descriptions for all the above posts from Recruitment Officer, Personnel Department, Town Hall, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF.



Southampton and South West Hampshire Health Authority

PAYMASTER SERVICES MANAGER
(£15,733-£20,064)

Leading the Authority's major financial services (payroll, creditor payments, expenses, stores accounting, income services and patient monies) you will be expected to achieve substantial business results through effective management.

Key result areas include:-
— driving significant organisational change to effect quality and cost improvements.
— implementation and development of sophisticated computerised systems.
— managing cultural change.

To achieve this you will need to be appropriately qualified with substantial financial management experience in paymaster and/or related services within a large (not necessarily public sector) organisation.

Generous relocation package and good management development programme.

For further details contact:
Mr. P. B. Wells, Commercial Manager, Southampton (0703) 780911 Ext 201 and Mr. P. Stafford, District Finance Manager, Southampton (0703) 780911 Ext. 283.

For an information pack, contact the Corporate Personnel Department, Western Hospital, Oakley Road, Southampton. Tel: (0703) 780911 Ext. 300/301.

Closing date: 19th February 1988.

FINANCE

Borough Valuer and Estates Surveyor

£338,000 + Benefits

At Wandsworth, we've made something of a reputation as a progressive council; our programme of economic regeneration has been nothing short of dramatic in recent years. And we're continuing to scale new heights - which is why we now need an experienced Borough Valuer and Estates Surveyor.

Reporting direct to the Chief Executive, you'll play a key role in the development of this programme and the continuation of our innovative home-ownership policies.

You'll take charge of a 40-strong team overseeing a wide range of activities, from major site sales and redevelopments to new retail centres, as well as forming partnerships with developers for upgrading the housing stock.

In addition, you will also take responsibility for the Council's extensive shop, office and industrial portfolios, together with general valuation and estate surveying.

The ability to inject your own ideas into major projects is therefore essential, as is the skill necessary to maintain impetus by stimulating staff motivation and productivity.

You must hold the RICS qualification or equivalent, and have a background which will equip you to deal with the considerable challenges presented by the post.

For an application form and further details of this challenging opportunity, telephone 01-871 6002.

Closing date for applications 19 February 1988.

Wandsworth

an equal opportunity employer

All applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the job irrespective of disability, race, sex or marital status.

HARROW HEALTH AUTHORITY

Northwick Park Hospital & Clinical Research Centre, Watford Road, Harrow, Middx, HA1 3UJ
Tel: 01 884 5311.

FINANCE AND INFORMATION MANAGER

- ACUTE, ELDERLY & SCIENTIFIC SERVICES UNIT

Promotion of the current post-holder opens up an exciting opportunity for an experienced Management Accountant. The Unit has a budget of £25m., an extensive management agenda, which includes expansion and rationalisation of clinical services, and the development of computer - based information services.

To meet these challenges you should be able to demonstrate an ability to manage change under pressure, have effective interpersonal skills, and should possess a recognised CCAB qualification.

The post will be graded according to the profile of the individual appointed, between £15,081 and £22,403 p.a. including London Weighting. Relocation allowance available.

Informal discussion is welcomed. An appointment with the Unit General Manager, Mike Conner and the District Finance & Systems Development Manager, John Clifford can be arranged on extension 2538/2793, following which, details of the post will be sent to you inviting application. NHS experience is desirable but not essential.

Closing date for applications: 18.2.88.

HEALTH CARE

TOWER HAMLETS HEALTH AUTHORITY
THE LONDON HOSPITAL (WHITECHAPEL)
STAFF NURSES
R.M.N. - R.G.N.

Meet the Psychiatric team on Rachel Ward. If you are caring minded - looking for an opportunity to develop management and teaching skills and want to join the team who understand and appreciate the importance of Primary Nursing then:-

"Walk-in" or "Phone-in" to The Central Nursing Office, The London Hospital, WHITECHAPEL, and ask for Miss Jayne CUNNINGHAM, Senior Nurse. Tel 01-377 7091/7092 or 01-377 7000. Bleep 1265.

ORAL, THROAT, NOSE, PLASTIC SURGERY WARD - 24 beds. Do you want to work in our enthusiastic, stimulating, learning, teaching environment?

If so -

We are offering Registered General Nurses excellent experience, caring for patients who have undergone major throat, oral and plastic surgery. You will be able to further your management development in the ward and by planned post-basic education.

Information visits contact Mrs Chris Brazza, Senior Nurse on 01-377 7084.

Application forms for both posts from Mrs D. Williams, Senior Nurse Personnel, The Old House, The London Hospital, WHITECHAPEL, London, E1 2BB. Tel. 01-377 7537. CLOSING DATE: 16 February 1988.



1 Stanford Avenue
Brighton
East Sussex BN1 6AD

ADMINISTRATOR

Required to fill a unique role at this purpose-built modern, established Nursing Home. Experienced SRN with ability and personality to take charge of future development of the centre.

Job involves professional and managerial skills combined with a zest for PR.

A senior nurse is in charge of day-to-day management of clinical care. Registered, over a wide spectrum for up to 49 patients and equipped with the best.

Situated centrally. This job offers excellent rewards and a future for the right candidate. Accommodation can be available.

Apply with CV to:
The Proprietor, 1 Stanford Avenue, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 6AD.

APPEAL DIRECTOR

The Governors of West Buckland School, North Devon, wish to appoint a person to organise and run a major appeal aimed at raising £500,000 to build an exciting new science and technology complex. This is the first phase of an extensive programme of development by an established and forward-looking independent co-educational school.

Applications in writing should be addressed to:

THE LADY MARGARET FORTESCUE,
Chairman of the Appeal Committee,
WEST BUCKLAND SCHOOL, BARNSTAPLE, DEVON EX32 0SX.
TELEPHONE: FILLEIGH (05988) 281.

HEALTH CARE

Long and short-term bookings; permanent and temporary work, full and part-time jobs available now.

Professional, flexible services; providing work where you want it when you want it.

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Law Report February 2 1988

Bystander test for risk in arson

Regina v Sangha

Before Lord Justice Croom, Johnson, Mr Justice Caulefield and Mr Justice Tucker [Judgment January 29]

The Court of Appeal admitted the test to be applied when consideration was being given to the question whether an act of setting fire to something created an obvious and serious risk of damaging property and thereby endangering the life of another.

The question to be asked was: "Is it true that an ordinary prudent bystander would have perceived an obvious risk that property of value and life would thereby be endangered?"

An appeal by Sukhinder Singh Sangha, aged 27, against conviction at Isleworth Crown Court (Judge Palmer and a jury) of arson contrary to section 1(2) and (3) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 was dismissed. He was sentenced to 30 months' imprisonment.

Section 1(2) provides: "A person who without lawful excuse... (a) ... being reckless as to whether any property would be damaged; and (b) ... being reckless as to whether the life of another would be thereby endangered; shall be guilty of an offence."

Section 1(3) provides that an offence under section 1 by

damaging property by fire "shall be charged as arson."

Mr Martin Field, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Michael Birnbaum for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER, giving the judgment of the court, said that an appeal by the appellant's co-defendant — Joginder Singh Chana, who had been convicted on a count of arson of a mattress — had been allowed by their Lordships on January 12.

The offences took place in a council owned flat in Southall, which was occupied by squatters. There was very little furniture in the flat apart from a mattress, a sofa and two armchairs.

The scientific evidence was that there had been three probable seats of fire, corresponding with the places where the mattress and two armchairs had been.

The prosecution case was that there had been the setting fire to the mattress as described by witnesses and then, by inference, the starting of fires in other places after the occupants had gone out.

The defence submitted that there was no case to go to the jury. The ground of appeal was that the judge erred in law in failing to withdraw from the jury the charge on which the

appellant had been convicted.

On appeal in regard to recklessness counsel relied on the dicta of Lord Diplock in *R v Caldwell* ([1982] AC 341) and *R v Lawrence* (Stephen) ([1982] AC 510) and Mr Birnbaum also relied on a passage in Lord Diplock's speech in *R v Miller* ([1983] 2 AC 161, 177).

In relation to being reckless as to whether any such property would be damaged, Lord Diplock said in *Miller*: "... where the state of mind relied upon is 'being reckless', the risk created by the physical act of the accused that property belonging to another would be damaged, must be one that would be obvious to anyone who had given his mind to it at whatever is the relevant time for determining whether the state of mind of the accused fitted the description 'being reckless' whether such property would be damaged." and reference was made to *Caldwell* and *Lawrence*.

In their Lordships' judgment, when consideration was given as to whether an act of setting fire to something created an obvious and serious risk of damaging property and thereby endangering the life of another, the test to be applied was as follows:

"Is it true that an ordinary prudent bystander would have perceived an obvious risk that property of value and life would thereby be endangered?"

The ordinary prudent bystander was not deemed to be invested with expert knowledge relating to the construction of the property, nor endowed with hindsight.

The time at which his perception was material was the time when the fire was started.

Section 1 used the word "would" in the context both of destruction or damage and whether life would be thereby endangered. Their Lordships interpreted that word as going to the expectation of an ordinary prudent bystander.

Applying the test to the facts of the present case, it was clear that in setting fire to the objects, as the jury found that the appellant did, he created a risk that was obvious and serious that property would be damaged and the life of another would thereby be endangered.

The fact that there were special features which prevented the life of another being endangered was irrelevant.

In their Lordships' judgment there was evidence which it was proper to leave to the jury and for them to consider. The judge was right to leave the case to them.

There was ample evidence to justify their conviction of the appellant and, accordingly, the appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Isleworth.

Injunction on television company discharged

In re Channel Four Television Company Ltd

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Sir Stephen Brown, President and Lord Justice O'Connor [Judgment January 29]

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, discharged an injunction, granted on the application of the Attorney General, restraining the Channel Four Television Company from broadcasting any enactment of any part of the court proceedings in the appeal *R v Callaghan and Others*, in which judgment was delivered by the same court at the Central Criminal Court on January 28.

Mr John Mathew, QC and Mr Jonathan Caplan for the company; Mr John Laws for the Attorney General.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that this was an application by Channel Four Television for the court to lift an injunction which the court imposed with regard to a proposed television programme depicting, with actors, some of the incidents which occurred during the appeal by Callaghan and others in the Central Criminal Court (*The Times* December 18, 1987).

The circumstances did not have to be related save to say that at the close of proceedings [at the Central Criminal Court]

Lord Gifford indicated that he would ask the court to certify a point of law of general public importance and no doubt apply for leave to appeal to the House of Lords. As that was neither the time nor the atmosphere to determine the application Lord Gifford would argue the matter at a later date.

It was argued by the company, with the support of the Attorney General, that the injunction should be lifted. That argument was based on sections 1 and 2(2) of the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

The basis of their Lordships' anxiety was that if, as might be the case, a point of law was certified and if the matter went to the House of Lords, it was

open to the House of Lords, and on the cards as possible, that the House of Lords might do what the court had declined to do and order a retrial.

In those circumstances the possible prejudice to the eventual jury would be great if the programme were to go on the air.

It was submitted for the Attorney General that on a true reading of paragraphs 15 and 16 of Schedule 1 to the 1981 Act, the sequence of proceedings through the Court of Appeal to the House of Lords was not a seamless web but broken half way.

Consequently, all their Lordships could consider was the

effect the television programme might have on the House of Lords, which would be negligible, not the effect on a potential jury if the House of Lords were to order a retrial.

The court did not pronounce on that view of paragraphs 15 and 16. Their Lordships were not convinced of the seamless web argument and reserved their views on that contention.

However, in the circumstances of the case and in the light of the fact that the Attorney General considered that the programme could be shown, the court would discharge the injunction.

Solicitors: D. J. Freeman & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

Waiting time of cases to be listed

Practice Statement: Listing Statement (No 2)

In future the waiting time from setting down to trial of non-jury cases would be published in *The Daily Cause List* and would be updated weekly. For the time being no fixtures as far ahead as October 1989 would be made except in exceptional cases. Mr Justice Michael Davies stated in the Queen's Bench Division when issuing a Practice Statement on February 1.

MR JUSTICE MICHAEL DAVIES said that the waiting

time from setting down to trial had in the course of this term so far fallen from 12 months to six months. It was hoped that in the reasonably near future that would be reduced to three months and the present intention was to stabilize it at that period.

Until that was achieved it was obviously desirable that parties should be able to know the current situation so that they might put the final touches to their preparations for trial. Accordingly arrangements had been made for the current

waiting time to be published in *The Daily Cause List*, and that would be updated weekly.

Turning to fixtures and dated cases: those were currently being made for October 1989. That was too far ahead and was likely increasingly to become, inconsistent with the waiting time for cases in the general list. Arrangements had been made which would enable fixtures to be offered for much earlier dates and for the time being no fixtures so far ahead as October 1989 would be made save in the exceptional case.

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SNOOKER

Player who casts an evil spell on Davis

By Steve Acteson

In the wake of yet another Steve Davis benefit tournament, 126 of snooker's 127 other professionals must be wondering how he can be stopped: short, that is, of putting out a contract on the world champion.

The exception is Dennis Taylor, who seems to cast the same evil spell over Davis that the world No. 1 casts over everyone else. Mike Hallett felt the full force when he was annihilated 9-0 in the Benson and Hedges Masters final on Sunday and Davis recaptured a trophy he had won only once before, back in 1982.

Taylor, of Northern Ireland, last year's Masters winner, took 13 years to win his first title, the 1984 Rothmans grand prix, but shook the snooker world to its foundations six months later when he recovered from 5-0 down to beat Davis in the 1985 Embassy world championship final. Taylor has now beaten Davis seven times in their last 10 meetings, including three victories this season, at World Series events in Tokyo and Toronto and in the Matchroom tournament, from 3-0 down, in Southend.

So what is Taylor's secret? "There is no secret, except to knock the balls in before he can," Taylor said. "Steve said on television that the Masters final that he feels he is playing better than ever but I don't think he is."

"Certainly he is playing some super stuff but he gives more chances now than he used to and it's up to his opponents to take them. I think he was playing better back in 1982 and '83 when he was winning absolutely everything. He hardly gave you a sniff of a chance in those days."

"I just seem to be able to motivate myself more against Steve and I wish I felt the same way about every match I play in. It's not a bad thing, it's just that I get so excited about playing Steve because you know that unless you're really motivated you'll get stuffed and I mean really hammered. It frightens you to know what he's capable of to you and that helps me raise my game against him."

"He's a great all-rounder and people who say that he plays boring snooker just don't know what they're talking about. His tactical game is superb and if you then leave him a chance, he'll clear up; there is no better and no more successful way of playing the game and he's a master at it."

Taylor was the first player ever to be white-washed in a tournament final as Davis — who else? — drubbed him 9-0 in the 1981 Jameson International. Hallett thus became the second player in snooker history to suffer that indignity but said: "I had plenty of chances but if you don't make 50 and 60 breaks against the guy you can't win."

Result: Steve Davis (Eng) 9-0 (Hallett (Eng) 9-0; Frame scores: 1-25, 13-0, 67-25, 77-50, 75-20, 58-28, 67-30, 59-48.

CRICKET: A TACTICAL BLUNDER ASSISTS AUSTRALIA'S FIGHT TO SAVE THE BICENTENNIAL TEST

A bouncer sadly ill-timed

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Sydney

In all but the worst of Test cricket's misadventures, the time comes when a team in dire trouble mounts its final, determined bid for escape. Australia, ignominiously following on in their own bicentennial celebration, were doing just that in Sydney yesterday when England took pity and helped out.

At just the moment when the prescribed priority was to make life as tortured as possible for their limping hosts, England handed them a pair of crutches and assisted them across the street.

The dull grey of one of Sydney's less attractive days was growing more ominous by the minute when the umpires, Crafter and McConnell, conferred 20 minutes into the evening session. As the Australian openers had put on almost 100, and slow bowlers were operating at both ends, they decided to stay on.

Two overs later Gattling, who had hitherto captained England with exemplary good sense, elected to replace Hemmings with Dilley. In the circumstances, it was rather like playing rock music in a reference library. The umpires instantly consulted again and allowed the over to begin, plainly as a trial.

With his third ball Dilley had Marsh ducking under a bouncer and that, inevitably, was that. Conditions were never likely to improve there after 90 precious minutes of a thoroughly unintelligent piece of cricket.

England's defence might be that the light had not deteriorated to a dangerous degree; indeed their cricket manager, Mickey Stewart, gave his view that it was not as dark as when play was halted at a similar time on Sunday. That, however, misses the point, which is that after two umpires' conferences had given them the plainest possible warning, England blundered straight on.

Gattling apparently wanted the two spinners to change ends and considered a burst from his quickest bowler to be the ideal way of achieving the switch. But as the openers were well set and the light so questionable, it might have been better to give an occasional bouncer, such as Moxon, an over or two just as something different.

By this stage, it must be admitted, Marsh and Boon had done a conscientious job in a capable way, which only served to emphasize how well England had bowled and fielded to achieve the transitory triumph of enforcing the follow-on. Australia's second



Stumbling block: Marsh swings Hemmings to leg during his partnership with Boon which has raised Australian spirits

innings had begun 10 minutes before lunch, with a deficit of 211 to clear and five sessions stretching ahead. It was an unenviable position but this odd couple, the dour West Australian and the rotund Tasmanian, have become an extremely effective pairing and they were not to be shifted so easily again. When play ended they had put on 101 and

made Australia's salvage mission look altogether more feasible. They had destroyed a fourth or two about this pitch where the problems for batsmen are largely in the mind. Best of all they had rebuked their own supporters who had stayed away in droves, scenting humiliation.

Until now, Boon and Marsh have created their reputations

within the confines of one-day cricket, chiefly because they are obliged to play so much of it. This, in fact, was their fourth century stand in 29 starts together in Tests but it is a record likely to see rapid improvement. They have forged an understanding which is clear not only in their running but in their individual systems, each one happy to complement the other.

Boon, who has a deft touch for a heavy man, is always likely to score quicker than Marsh, a player of limited scope but boundless application. Boon had passed 50, his ninth half century in Tests, shortly before the curfew with a resounding on side boundary against Emburey, whose complete lack of success in this match has become a point of concern.

For a specialist bowler in his fifteenth Test match, Emburey's aggregate of 122 wickets is unimpressive. He has taken five in an innings on only six occasions and since the last occasion, which was here in Sydney twelve months ago, he has picked up only seven wickets in eight Tests.

He does not deserve to be wicketless in this game but neither has he looked very menacing. As so often, his trajectory has usually been flat, seeking containment rather than penetration and

the manager, Stewart, echoed many opinions when he said last night: "He has played an awful lot of limited-overs cricket recently and that may have something to do with it."

Hemmings, whose presence here at rising 39, is an indictment of the state of English slow bowling, consistently looked more dangerous than Emburey but England's best bowler was Foster. Once the angry young man of the squad, frequently frustrated by twelfth man duties, Foster has worked tirelessly on his line until now, at a lively fast-medium pace, he has achieved the status of a bowler against whom no batsman can feel entirely comfortable.

Foster was unfortunate to go unrewarded in a testing spell against the Australian openers but at the start of the day he had made the vital breach and then taken a decisive catch, to inflict the follow-on.

After Taylor had fallen to a turning ball from Hemmings, Sleep guided the Australians within 17 runs of safety but Foster, bursting in with great purpose, hurried him into a false stroke and Athey, at second slip, accepted the edge. Five runs later McDermott aimed an exotic drive at Dilley and Foster, apparently beaten at mid-on, threw down his cap and launched himself acrobatically backwards for a memorable catch.

SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY

England won toss

First Innings: 425 (B C Broad 136; P L Taylor 4-84)

AUSTRALIA

First Innings

D M Jones c Embury b Hemmings	58	-	4	180	125
A R Border c Broed b Capel	2	-	4	21	15
M R J Valetta c Embury b Hemmings	27	-	1	66	48
S R Waugh c French b Dilley	22	-	2	89	86
P R Sleep c Athey b Foster	44	-	2	151	114
A G C Dwyer line b Hemmings	0	-	2	10	7
P L Taylor c French b Hemmings	20	-	2	47	49
A J Dodemaded not out	1	-	1	82	42
C J McDermott c Foster b Dilley	12	-	1	61	3
Extras (lb 10, w 1, nb 5)	16				
Total (86.1 overs)	214				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-25, 3-34, 4-82, 5-116, 6-147, 7-153, 8-183, 9-208.

BOWLING: Dilley 19-1-4-54-3 (nb 6 w); Foster 19-6-27-2; Emburey 30-10-57-0

